

Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula



Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula was first elected in 2016 to 31st Assembly District in the Central Valley. He is the first Latino physician elected to the California State Assembly.

He proudly represents a district that includes 41 percent of the city of Fresno as well as all the rural cities and communities in Fresno County.

Arambula's experiences as an emergency room doctor in Selma in Fresno County forged his determination to improve health care for all people, especially the most vulnerable. He saw the emotional and financial hardships of people struggling with illnesses that could have been prevented with access to quality health care.

Arambula believes health care is a fundamental human right. Since his election, he has been a forceful advocate in addressing the dire shortage of doctors and other health care professionals in the Central Valley. He has authored legislation that improves health and mental health services, but he also has been vigilant to include measures that ensure transparency regarding management of these services and their costs.

Arambula was born in Delano, the heart of the farmworker movement, and grew up in Fresno, where he attended public schools. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College in Maine and the University of Minnesota Medical School. Following graduation, he chose to return to Fresno to serve his community as a doctor.

His parents, Juan and Amy Arambula, instilled in their children a commitment to hard work, purpose and public service. Juan is a former Assembly member, and Amy is a health care advocate.

BIO OF MAYE HAYES JEPSON



Maye Jepson lives in Smithfield, Virginia, and along with her husband Phil, is the caregiver and parent of Jason Jepson who has a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder. She will not rest until mental health is treated equally with physical health. Remembering the uncertain days when her family first learned of her son's mental illness, Maye formed a Facebook group for Parenting Recently Diagnosed Schizophrenics hoping to give and share resources for those who are newly entering the world of mental illness. In the past Maye has volunteered with several international boards including Stonecroft

Ministries, Imago Dei Arts, and Global Partners in Hope. In addition to a Bachelor of Science degree, Maye has a Masters degree in Counseling from Marshall University. She has taught hundreds of women to write their personal stories as a legacy to their families and friends. Like her son, Maye volunteers with the Share Network where she shares her perspective on mental health as a parent wanting desperately to help a young adult child maneuver the challenges of schizophrenia. Maye serves on the Advocacy Board of Students With Psychosis because she believes in the importance of shedding light on mental health issues from the youngest to the oldest consumer.

Wayne C. Drevets, M.D.

Neuroscience, Janssen Research & Development, LLC
of Johnson & Johnson, Inc.



Dr. Drevets is Vice President and Disease Area Leader in Mood Disorders in the Neuroscience Therapeutic Area at Janssen Research & Development. He received a B.S. (Biology) degree from Wheaton College and an M.D. degree from the University of Kansas, and then completed residency training in psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis). He then joined the Washington University Department of Psychiatry faculty, ultimately attaining the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. In 1996 he moved to the University of Pittsburgh as Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Radiology, and then in 2001 joined the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) as Chief of the Section on Neuroimaging in Mood and Anxiety Disorders. In 2009, Dr. Drevets became the founding President and Scientific Director of the Laureate Institute for Brain Research and the Oxley Chair in Neuroscience Research at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Psychiatry. He joined Janssen in August 2012 as the first Disease Area Leader in Mood Disorders.

Dr. Drevets' research has focused on characterizing the pathophysiology of mood disorders, elucidating the mechanisms underlying antidepressant and mood stabilizing therapies, and discovery of novel therapeutics for mood disorders. At Janssen he built a new program for developing novel treatments for major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder, in which he oversees the strategy conception and execution from discovery through late development phases. Under Dr. Drevets leadership Janssen's Mood Disease Area has assembled the industry leading portfolio of novel therapeutics in mood disorders, and achieved the launch of their first drug, Spravato, for treatment resistant depression in 2019, and the advance to phase 3 of seltorexant as an adjunctive treatment for depression.

Dr. Drevets has published nearly 350 articles and chapters and has been cited more than 57,000 times in the scientific literature (H-Index = 110). He is a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and a Member of the Society for Biological Psychiatry.

BIO OF DR. HITEN PATADIA



Dr. Hiten Patadia is a Managed Markets Liaison for the Field Medical Affairs team at Otsuka. Dr. Patadia territory includes California, where he engages with payor entities to provides clinical and health economic information. Dr. Patadia received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Before joining Otsuka, he worked at a large PBM, for 4 years as a Sr. Clinical Account Executive where he advised on formulary choice and utilization management for over 500k patients.

Bio of Anita Smith Everett, M.D., DFAPA



Dr. Everett currently serves as the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services in the US, Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. There she oversees the administration of grants that aim to increase access to high quality treatment for persons with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. Dr. Everett comes to SAMHSA with long-term experience in the delivery and leadership of psychiatric services for persons with schizophrenia and other psychiatric conditions. She has worked in rural and urban areas, most recently as section chief of community psychiatry programs at Johns Hopkins Bayview. Dr. Everett served as president of the American Psychiatric Association from 2016 to 2017 and has received commendation for her work in national healthcare reform. She received the Patrick Henry award for outspoken advocacy in Virginia's public mental health system.

BIO OF DR. JOE PARKS



Dr. Parks currently serves as Medical Director and Vice President, Practice Improvement & Consulting, for The National Council for Behavioral Health and is a Distinguished Research Professor of Science at Missouri Institute of Mental Health with the University of Missouri, St. Louis. He is the national behavioral health representative at large for The Joint Commission. He practices outpatient psychiatry at Family Health Center, a federally funded community health center established to expand services to uninsured and underinsured patients in Columbia Missouri.

He previously served as the Director of Missouri MO HealthNet Division (Missouri Medicaid) in the Missouri Department of Social Services. He was also Medical Director for the Missouri Department of Mental Health in Jefferson City and the Division Director for the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services.

Dr. Parks has conducted research and published in the areas of implementation of evidence-based medicine, pharmacy utilization management, integration of behavioral healthcare with general healthcare, and health care policy. He has received numerous awards for improving the quality of care and leadership.

Andrew Sperling
Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)



Andrew Sperling is the Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In this position, he leads NAMI's legislative advocacy initiatives in Congress and before federal agencies. Mr. Sperling works on issues affecting the mental health community with a focus on improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses.

Since 1994, Mr. Sperling has also served as Co-Chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force.

Prior to joining NAMI, Mr. Sperling held the position of deputy director of government relations for the National Community Mental Healthcare Council and was a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Dick Swett (D-NH).

Mr. Sperling earned his BA from Tulane University. After graduating from Tulane, Sperling attended George Washington University where he received a Masters of Arts, and in 1992, he earned a law degree from the Franklin Pierce Law Center.