

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015

Obtained \$3.9 million for Lexington School

Successfully secured \$3.9 million in state seismic safety funds for Los Gatos Union School District, enabling them to free up money for other school construction projects and ending a two-year crusade by the district to obtain reimbursement for earthquake mitigation work that protects the new Lexington Elementary School.

Eliminated discrepancy in state tax law resulting in \$2.5 million in property taxes being returned to four cities in Santa Clara County (SB 107)

As a member of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Senator Beall worked to get language from a previous bill he introduced into a committee-sponsored bill to eliminate a 30-year-old discrepancy in the law that prevented the four Santa Clara County cities from getting the same standard percentage of returned property tax revenue as the rest of California's cities. The estimated value to the four cities, based on the current year property tax assessments, is \$2.5 million: Cupertino, \$1.4 million; Saratoga, \$650,000; Los Altos Hills, \$320,000; Monte Sereno, \$200,000. With this lost revenue finally restored, these cities will have more revenue to invest into public improvement projects or municipal services without raising any taxes or fees.

Senate Bill 9 – Reducing Traffic Congestion

This legislation infuses practicality and speed into the process of building environmentally friendly mass transit projects, such as BART to San Jose. The bill guarantees long-term funding from the Cap and Trade program for eligible projects, eliminating the necessity to apply for financing in phases and the commissioning of repetitive planning studies for each stage.

Senate Bills 319 & 484 – Safeguarding Foster Care Youth

Both bills set tougher standards for monitoring the use of psychotropic drugs given to foster care youth. The new laws will stop the spread of mind-altering medications as the sole choice by some group homes to control children's behavior instead of counseling and therapy.

Senate Bills 11 & 29 – Effective Policing

The bills significantly increase behavioral health training for peace officers to prepare them to safely manage and help people with mental illnesses. In recognition of California's diverse population, the training also incorporates cultural sensitivity education.

Champion for new DMV office in East San Jose

After legislation was passed allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license; Senator Beall successfully led the charge to place a Department of Motor Vehicles office in East San Jose, a historically under-served community in the district. In 2015, the East San Jose DMV processed over 627,514 driver license transactions from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 and employed 110 workers to keep our streets safer by ensuring new drivers understand the rules of the road and carry auto insurance.¹

¹ Information provided by DMV Leg Unit, *Patrick Barrett, Acting Deputy Director of Legislation, Department of Motor Vehicles (916) 657-6518, patrick.barrett@dmv.ca.gov*

Three Creeks Trail in Willow Glen

Senator Beall spearheaded legislative efforts to extend the statutory deadline of Prop 40 funds set to expire allowing the City of San Jose to keep \$1.8 million in earmarked for the Three Creeks Trail in Willow Glen. (AB 93)

SB 236 Communication Hill

To stop illegal activity on the popular Communications Hill stairway and to improve residents' quality of life, Senator Beall's SB 236 was signed into law, giving the city of San Jose new powers to regulate access to the stairs.

SB 410 Fairness for vocational schools like Center for Employment and Training who serve low-income students

This legislation allows the Center for Employment and Training in San Jose to receive an estimated \$300,000 annually in federal and state employment and training funds by changing the legal definition of "graduate" to include all students who graduate regardless of how long it takes them to complete their coursework.

The bill ends the unfair penalization of post-secondary and vocational schools that serve low-income students who face economic impediments that may hinder them from graduating in a timely manner.

Reforming the Foster Care System

Oversight of Psychotropic Medication for Foster Youth

After news reports revealed the state's heavy reliance on psychotropic medications to manage the behavior of foster youth, Senator Beall successfully led the effort to develop a package of Senate bills to address the issue.

He authored two major bills:

SB 319 to give public health nurses the authority to request a foster youth's medical information directly from a provider or social worker.

SB 484 to increase the oversight and monitoring the administration of psychotropic drugs by foster care group homes. The bill identifies groups homes with an abnormally high use of these powerful drugs to control behavior instead of providing the necessary care and access to mental health services. This year's state budget also included a \$150,000 allocation towards data collection to help with the oversight and monitoring of psychotropic drug use.

As a longtime advocate for improving the lives of California's foster youth, Senator Beall co-authored AB 403 (Stone), which reforms the foster care system and reduces the reliance on group homes. The bill will increase the number of foster youth that are directly placed with families in the community.

Combatting the Drought

Senator Beall supported legislation signed into law to invest more than \$3 billion to combat the drought and mandate environmentally safe, sustainable, groundwater management for the first time in California history. The money will be spent on increasing water conservation and storage, recycled water projects and help for those communities hit hardest by the drought including some Central Valley towns that need water trucked in.

Streamlined regulations to swiftly increase local water supplies

Senator Beall worked with the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to pass legislation (SB 88) to expedite the expansion of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center throughout the county. The project quadruples the recycled water ground water supply from 9,000-acre feet to 45,000-acre fee for landscaping and commercial use.

SB 88 streamlines regulations to expedite the installation of water pipelines along the existing thoroughfares, saving millions in regulatory clearance and shaving years off this project. The project enables a larger portion of our water source to be locally produced and within our control.

Education

Career Technical Education

Senator Beall successfully worked with state and local school officials to obtain over \$30 million dollars in California Career Pathways Trust Grant funds for three local school districts: Metropolitan Education District, East Side Union High School District and San Jose/Evergreen Community College School District.

The grants assist programs that blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields such as health care, advanced manufacturing, technology, and software development.

Adult Education

Senator Beall supported and voted to include \$500 million dollars for adult education programs in this year's budget benefitting multiple schools in Senate District 15 including Campbell Adult and Community Education, San Jose City College, Metropolitan Education District, and others.

Proposition 39

Successfully supported efforts to obtain over \$4 million dollars state Prop 39 funds to pay for energy efficient projects at several schools in Senate District projects of 15.

Child Care, K-12th, and Higher Education

Senator Beall supported investments in early childhood education to add over 13,000 new full-day and part-day preschool slots in this year's budget, including 2,500 part-day slots with priority given to children with special needs. Access to quality, affordable child care for working families and their children ensures a strong foundation for future success.

With over 20 school districts in Senate District 15, Senator Beall helped lead the efforts to invest more than \$68 billion into California's K-14 classrooms. Spending per-pupil is at an all-time high in California allocating more than \$10,000 per K-14 student, an increase of 15 percent in just two years.

Senator Beall voted to invest more money in the UC and CSU system to open up 15,000 new enrollment slot for more California students to attend our public universities. He supported a \$216 million increase to the CSU system, the largest investment in over decade. It restores Cal Grant eligibility at private, non-profit schools and provides over 3,000 more Cal Grant awards. He also supported investment in Community Colleges with a focus on expanding student success programs and strengthening efforts to assist underrepresented students.

Education Bills Supported by Senator Beall

Voted for SB 172 to suspend the state high school exit exam for three years while the state analyzes alternatives that do not punish students who meet all the graduation requirements but are unable to pass the exam. Status: Signed by the Governor

Voted for AB 854, which expands the Foster Youth Services program to include foster youth who live with relatives. AB 854 aligns the program's definition of foster youth with the definition used in the Local Control Funding Formula, so no foster youth is left out. Status: Signed by the Governor.

Voted for the Preschool for All Act of 2015 (AB 47) to increase access to preschool for all children a year before they enter kindergarten but who are not enrolled in transitional kindergarten. Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

Co-authored SB 252 to waive the college exam fees for homeless high school students. SB 252 will help the estimated 3,000 homeless students in Senate District 15 pursue a college degree. Status: Held in Senate Appropriations.

Voted for AB 375 to allow teachers and school employees on maternity or paternity leave to receive differential pay so they may have the same amount of time under the law as other certified state workers to bond with their newborns. Signed into law by the Governor.

As a long-time leader for teacher's rights, Senator Beall successfully authored SJR 1 to urge Congress to repeal two unfair provisions, the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, which prevent teachers from receiving Social Security benefits they earned while working in the private sector. SJR 1 urges the federal government to remove these penalties to ensure our teachers are treated fairly and are able to keep their hard earned benefits.

Senator Beall won approval for a state audit request to examine whether school districts are providing students the mental health services they are entitled to by law. The audit will examine four Special Education Local Plan Areas, including one in Santa Clara County, and will assess the process for hiring mental health services staff, identify how schools are using state and federal funding, what the process is for determining students needing mental health services, and other useful information that will improve the current system. The audit is set to be released January 2016.

Increasing Worker Protections

Wage Theft Protections

Senator Beall supported legislation (SB 588) signed into law to crackdown on employers who cheat workers out of their wages. Status: Signed by the Governor.

Winning Equal Pay for Californians

Senator Beall joined with the Women's Caucus to pass the strongest equal pay law in the country. The California Fair Pay Act ensures women are paid equally as men for the same work, and protects women from retaliation if they discuss or ask about the wages of their male colleagues. Status: Signed by the Governor.

Strengthened California Family Leave Policies

Senator Beall supported the expansion of the California Family Rights Act to meet the caregiving responsibilities of diverse and multi-generational families. The proposal called for allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to care for sick domestic partners, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings and parents-in-law. Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

District Projects

Modernize the Mental Health and Treatment Facility at the County Jail

Senator Beall successfully worked with state and local school officials to obtain \$80 million dollars in state jail construction funds to modernize and update the County Jail's mental health and treatment space.

Highway 17 Drainage Project

Senator Beall successfully pushed to expedite the Highway 17 drainage project to stabilize the Los Gatos hills and prevent a catastrophic collapse before the arrival of El Nino.

Organized the Caltrans Workgroup to focus on district needs

To better serve residents and coordinate Caltrans maintenance requests, Senator Beall organized a workgroup comprised of representatives from Caltrans and local elected officials who overlap with his district to identify and prioritize the most significant maintenance requests impacting residents in District 15.

As a result of the workgroup, Caltrans worked with City and County officials to remove several homeless encampments that endangered lives, remove litter from neighborhood freeway ramps and eradicate graffiti throughout the district. The group also played a major role in getting Hwy 280/680 freeway lights back on after several months of darkness.

Embracing California's Rich Diversity

Senator Beall co-authored SCR 29, to proclaim April 2015 as Black April Memorial Month, in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.

Senator Beall worked to correct an historical injustice by introducing SR46 in 2014, a resolution passed by the Senate urging the California State Supreme Court to posthumously grant a law license to Hong Yen Chang, a Chinese immigrant who was denied admission to the bar in 1890 because of his race. In March 2015, the court approved Chang's license.

Budget Accomplishments

Voted to provide \$35 million dollars in this year's budget to expand the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, a program designed to help low-income homeless families or families in danger of losing their home due to unpaid rent, eviction or rising rent costs. Over the past two budget cycles, Santa Clara County received \$3 million and has already helped 74 families in obtain permanent housing.²

Libraries

As an early advocate for updating our public libraries broadband equipment, Senator Beall supported this year's budget that includes \$4.2 million to upgrade broadband equipment and services in libraries across the state.

Property Tax Postponement Program

The 2015 Budget includes \$1.7 million to reinstate the property tax postponement (PTP) program. PTP allows low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities to delay paying property tax on their home until they sell it. This program ensures that low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities will not lose their homes because they can't afford to pay property taxes.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The 2015 Budget includes a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The state EITC is expected to provide \$380 million in tax relief, and households can get relief of more than \$2,600 each.

² Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014) created the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15. The Governor's approved 2014-15 Budget allocated \$20 million for the CalWORKs HSP. Twenty counties were allocated HSP funds in September 2014 to be used through June 30, 2015. The Governor's approved Budget for 2015-16 allocates \$35 million for the CalWORKs HSP to continue through FY 2015-16.

This program is expected to provide tax relief to an estimated 2 million low-income Californians, including more than 55,000 residents of Santa Clara County.

Courts

As a member of the Subcommittee on Public Safety, Senator Beall successfully fought to increase funding for Dependency Counsel and our local courts.

The 2015 Budget includes an additional \$11 million for attorneys for dependents, to ensure that vulnerable individuals receive adequate representation in court.

The 2015 Budget includes significant additional funding for local trial courts, including \$27 million for additional workload, \$2 million for security services, and \$217 million for trial court construction.

Criminal Justice Grants

The 2015 Budget includes a variety of grant programs to reduce recidivism and increase community-based services. That includes \$1.3 million for collaborative courts, \$1.7 million for services for mentally ill offenders, and \$4 million for community-based organizations that provide innovative programs for former offenders.

Keeping Children Healthy & Safe

Providing Funding to Local Non-Profits to Support Individuals with Immigration Services

As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, Senator Beall helped push for \$15 million for qualified non-profit organizations to provide application assistance, education, and outreach to individuals eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or to provide naturalization services.

Expanded Medi-Cal to Undocumented Children living in California

Voted to expand Medi-Cal to all children regardless of immigration status by allowing our local public insurance plan, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, to receive an estimated four and half million dollars more annually.³

Increasing Driver's License Access for safer roads

With the advocacy of Senator Beall, AB60, the Safe and Responsible Drivers Act, has brought over 549,000 California residents new drivers licenses to date.⁴

Priority Bills

AB 313 (Atkins)

This bill stipulates how enhanced infrastructure financing districts should replace housing to ensure adequate housing for individuals of all incomes. AB 313 also contains language clarifying that tax-paying entities are eligible for participation in the EIFDs. (VTA asked for the

³ \$4.5 million is an estimated provided by SCFHP Board member Michele Lew

⁴ From January 2015 to 1st week in November 2015

amendment on participation, and our office worked that out with the Speaker; BEALL – PRESENTED/AYE ON FLOOR, TRANS COMM, AND G&F COMM). Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 160 (Dababneh)

This bill protects law-abiding businesses and limits criminal profiteering by expanding the list of crimes subject to asset forfeiture and expanding the definition of organized crime. (CalChamber priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR AND G&F COMM) Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2 (Alejo)

This bill encourages local economic growth by permitting certain local agencies to create a Community Revitalization and Investment Authority for the purpose of developing and financing infrastructure projects, affordable housing and economic revitalization projects. (CalChamber priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR, TRANS COMM, AND G&F COMM) Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 35 (Chiu)

This bill promotes affordable housing by expanding the existing low-income housing tax credit program, making the state better able to leverage an estimated \$100 million more in Federal Tax Credits. (CalChamber priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR, TRANS COMM, AND G&F COMM) Status: Vetoed by the Governor

SB 540 (Hertzberg)

This bill reduces taxpayers' exposure to financial penalties, fees and interest due to errors made by the Franchise Tax Board. (CalChamber priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR AND G&F COMM) Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 437 (Atkins)

This bill assists small businesses in expanding and creating jobs by providing grants for a percentage of unused R&D credits. (CalChamber priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR AND G&F COMM) Status: Vetoed by the Governor

AB 57 (Quirk)

This bill streamlines the process for expanding wireless communication infrastructure statewide. (CalChamber and AT&T priority, BEALL – AYE ON FLOOR AND G&F COMM) Status: Signed by the Governor

JLAC Accomplishments

As a member of the Joint Legislative Audit Senator Beall supported several audit requests to ensure local and state entities are fulfilling their public obligations.

Supported an audit request that will examine the University of California and California State University's budget process, non-resident enrollment, and their executive compensation practices.

Supported an audit request to examine how effectively the child welfare services and probation departments are working together to meet the needs of crossover youth.

Supported an audit request on overmedication of foster youth. The audit will examine the accuracy of data tracked by agencies on whether foster children who are being prescribed psychotropic medications also receive other appropriate supportive services and also identify which agencies are responsible for ensuring that foster children eligible for Medi-Cal are receiving mental and behavioral health services as required by law.

Supported an audit request relating to gender pay gap disparities. The audit will take a look at the wage differences between males and females in four counties, including Santa Clara County.

Voted down an audit request that would have fueled defamatory allegations in an attempt to defund Planned Parenthood centers that provide preventive, reproductive, and general health care to 800,000 Californians each year—many of whom are low-income women and their families.