



## **Working for the Residents and Businesses of Santa Barbara County**

*Here are just a few of the key legislative issues I've worked on to help families and businesses in Santa Barbara County:*

- **Affordable Housing** – Secured highest conforming loan limit for South Santa Barbara County, lowering costs for homeowners and increasing available capital for local banks.
- **Clean Energy** – Helped pass new fuel efficiency standards for automobiles into law, and supported efforts to increase investment in clean energy research and development at UCSB and South Coast clean energy companies like Ecomerit Technologies, Transphorm, and Next Energy Technologies.
- **Coastal Preservation** – Passed legislation into law that provides states with funding to acquire coastal lands from willing sellers threatened by development; since 2005 the program has protected several threatened lands on the Gaviota Coast.
- **Expanding Healthcare** – Helped write and pass the Affordable Care Act which provided 34,000 people on the Central Coast with health care coverage for the first time and cut the local uninsured rate by 50%. Also have worked to improve the implementation by strengthening and improving the accuracy of provider networks and supporting increased subsidies for high-cost areas like the Central Coast.
- **Farm Bill** – Authored bipartisan provisions strengthening the integrity of the USDA organic label, and supported the inclusion of important specialty crop, organics, research, pest detection, and nutrition provisions backed by the California Farm Bureau and Central Coast growers in the final law.
- **Fire Safety** – Introduced legislation to help federal firefighters obtain disability benefits when they are harmed in the line of duty. Locally, federal firefighters protect VAFB and Los Padres National Forest.
- **Flower Growers** – Pushed the White House to feature American grown flowers at State dinners, founded the bipartisan Congressional Cut Flower Caucus, and built a broad bipartisan coalition in Congress to promote CA grown cut flowers and help local flower growers better compete in the global market.

- **Gun Violence Prevention** – Introduced the Pause for Safety Act to encourage states to empower families and others with new tools to prevent a tragedy if someone they are close to poses a threat to themselves or others (introduced in response to IV tragedy).
- **Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling** – Championed efforts in Congress to block new drilling or offshore air pollution in the Santa Barbara Channel.
- **Panga Boat Enforcement** – Worked to ensure local law enforcement eligibility for federal homeland security funding to combat panga boat drug trafficking and led Congressional efforts to fully fund the program.
- **School-Based Health Centers** – Passed legislation, as part of the health care reform law, to establish new school-based health clinics around the country.
- **Small Business Innovation** – Led efforts to pass into law a bill to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. SBIR has a proven track record supporting job creation in innovative industries. The South Coast has benefited from nearly 1,000 SBIR awards totaling several hundred million dollars.
- **Veterans** – Assisted numerous local veterans in security the care and benefits they've earned. Also passed bills to help veterans use their specialized skills to get jobs and reconstruct incomplete military records so that every veteran can access the benefits they deserve.

*At the request of local elected officials and business leaders in our community, I have helped secure federal support for important projects in Santa Barbara County:*

- **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary** – Millions to relocate the headquarters to a new state-of-the-art UC Santa Barbara facility to enhance research and educational opportunities
- **Coastal Protection** – Funding to study storm and erosion damage to Carpinteria, Goleta and Santa Barbara beaches
- **Environmental Protection** – Millions to restore Lower Mission Creek, Carpinteria Creek and Arroyo Burro to improve steelhead passage and enhance public access
- **FIRE Grant Program** – Millions to the County and City Fire Departments to enhance basic fire services
- **Housing** – Helped secure \$600,000 in federal funding for the Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County to help them develop affordable housing
- **Lake Cachuma** – Millions to replace water facilities at Lake Cachuma due to increased water levels at the lake to protect Steelhead

- **Local Law Enforcement** – Helped secure \$100,000 for the Police Activities League to provide youth activities and Sheriff's Department to provide methamphetamine health and substance abuse services
- **Santa Barbara Harbor** – Millions to annually dredge the Harbor, home to over 1,000 boats
- **UC Santa Barbara** – Millions to support the Department of Energy's Frontier Research Center focusing on energy efficiency technologies and the new Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary headquarters building
- **Veteran Homelessness** – Helped secure \$355,000 in Federal funding for New Beginnings Counseling Center to increase supportive services and outreach in re-housing homeless veterans
- **Wine Industry** – Funding to eradicate and research Pierce's Disease and promote environmentally friendly, sustainable vineyard practices
- **Women's Economic Ventures** – Funding to develop and support small business programs for women, including "C'est Cheese" and "The Closet"