



Biography of Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson

Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson proudly represents the vibrant East Bay communities of Oakland, Alameda, and Piedmont. An area native with deep ties to the community, Swanson was elected to his first term in the California State Assembly in 2006.

A long time activist with a strong passion for public service, Assemblymember Swanson worked for five years as Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Chief of Staff after working for 25 years as the District Director and Senior Policy Advisor to former Congressman Ron Dellums. In these capacities, Swanson earned a reputation as a dedicated and hardworking public servant with an impressive record of accomplishments on behalf of the constituents he served.

Assemblymember Swanson is an expert in the fields of labor, education, and budget reform. As a Member of the Assembly Budget Committee, Swanson has been an outspoken opponent of cuts to education and vital public services. His educational commitments championed the restoration of democracy and local control to the Oakland Unified School District and stressed the need for accountability and conflict of interest measures in charter schools, thereby strengthening the integrity of the entire public school system.

As Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus from December 2008 to December 2010, Assemblymember Swanson made education a primary mission of the Black Caucus. Under Swanson's leadership, the Black Caucus provided over \$125,000 in Youth Leadership Scholarships to students who might otherwise be unable to afford college. Swanson also spearheaded a statewide Healthy Communities and Lifestyle Initiative to educate the public about health disparities in communities of color and the diabetes and obesity epidemic.

As current Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, Assemblymember Swanson embraces the fight for a living wage, good benefits, and decent working conditions. Swanson grew up in a union home, and knows firsthand the debt of gratitude we owe to unions and the labor movement in California. He believes that California must continue to set the standard for the nation when it comes to workplace rights. Swanson passed two significant whistleblower protection acts and has authored several bills to provide equal access to justice for low-wage workers and increase workplace safety protections for employees.

Assemblymember Swanson also has extensive experience creating new job opportunities, while keeping mindful of the positive potential impact the environmental movement can have on jobs. Another key priority for Assemblymember Swanson is an aggressive approach to reducing

California's exploding prison population through job training programs and rehabilitation. He believes that the state will increase overall public safety and curb the costs of housing prisoners by finding progressive and efficient ways to successfully reintegrate ex-prisoners into society. It is unacceptable to him that the state's prison spending is outpacing its education expenditures. Although he believes in the practical and moral positives of rehabilitation, this does not diminish the fact that he is tough on crime.

Swanson is a reputable expert on human trafficking issues, having spent his first two terms in office stewarding landmark human trafficking legislation to protect sexually exploited minors. AB 499 established a first of its kind pilot program to recharacterize sexually exploited minors as victims and train communities to recognize them and provide the appropriate assistance. Swanson's AB 17 increased the fines on pimping, pandering, and procurement and dedicated those funds to help sexually exploited minors obtain education, counseling, and shelter. These bills have been used as models for communities nationwide and he is continuing his fight against human trafficking during his last term with several other significant measures.

Assemblymember Swanson relies on his many years of governmental experience and familiarity with issues important to the communities he represents. He is excited and honored to continue working in partnership with the residents, community-based organizations, and small businesses that are the fabric of the 16th Assembly District, and he is proud to serve the people of California.