

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

Building an Inclusive Economy: The State's role in Closing California's Opportunity Gap

Thursday, November 12, 2015, Ontario, California 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

California's record setting economic growth since the financial crisis and subsequent recession has been widely reported. Unfortunately, the recovery has not yet reached all regions. While state unemployment in September 2015 was 5.5%, 14 of the state's 58 counties continued to report unemployment levels above 7%. These inequities will only increase unless California sets an all-inclusive prosperity agenda. In today's hearing, the Members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy (JEDE) will be briefed on strategies for supporting the entrepreneurial business environment, stabilizing communities, and developing career ladders that provide for wage growth and long-term household security. This hearing is being held in collaboration with the 2015 California Economic Summit and is a follow-up to two JEDE oversight hearings on the California economy and related state programs (February and March of 2015).

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Statements

Chair Eduardo Garcia will open the hearing and recognize Ontario Mayor Paul Leon and Paul Granillo, California Economic Summit Chair and Executive Director of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, who will formally welcome the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy to the region. The Chair and Members of the Committee will give opening statements and frame the key issues to be examined during the hearing.

II. Building an Inclusive Economy

California's economic success is jeopardized by demographic shifts and economic stresses, from a disjointed education and workforce network, cities struggling with stalled industrial economies, and outdated and improperly maintained infrastructure to support community development. These challenges contribute to an opportunity gap that, left unaddressed, will result in high unemployment and underemployment for many areas of the state. Dr. Victor Rubin, Vice President for Research at PolicyLink, will provide a keynote address on achieving a prosperity agenda that takes strategic steps to support entrepreneurship, a better alignment among education and workforce training systems, and a modern infrastructure network that supports economic mobility and social cohesion.

III. Entrepreneurship Drives an Inclusive Prosperity Agenda

Entrepreneurs play an increasingly crucial role in creating opportunity and growth in the U.S. and California economy, especially for individuals from historically underrepresented groups. Dr. Yasuyuki Motoyama, Director of Research and Policy at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, will provide a keynote address that includes a profile on the modern face of entrepreneurship and discuss how it serves as an effective foundation for a more inclusive economy.

IV. Transformational Actions for Achieving a More Inclusive Economy

- *Dr. Alma Salazar, V.P. of Education and Workforce Development at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*
- *Ms. Helen Torres, Executive Director of HOPE*
- *Ms. Melina Duarte, STEM Education Consultant*

Achieving a more inclusive economy requires greater collaboration between public and private entities. Participants in this panel have been asked to present examples of current initiatives that are transforming California communities. Among other models, panelists will discuss real world solutions for lowering barriers to workforce preparation, increasing individual and household financial stability, and supporting entrepreneurship.

V. Public Comment

Anyone interested in addressing the Committee may sign up to speak during the public comment period. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the hearing room. Written comments may also be submitted to the Committee Office.

VI. Closing Remarks

Assemblymembers will make closing remarks and offer recommendations for further actions.