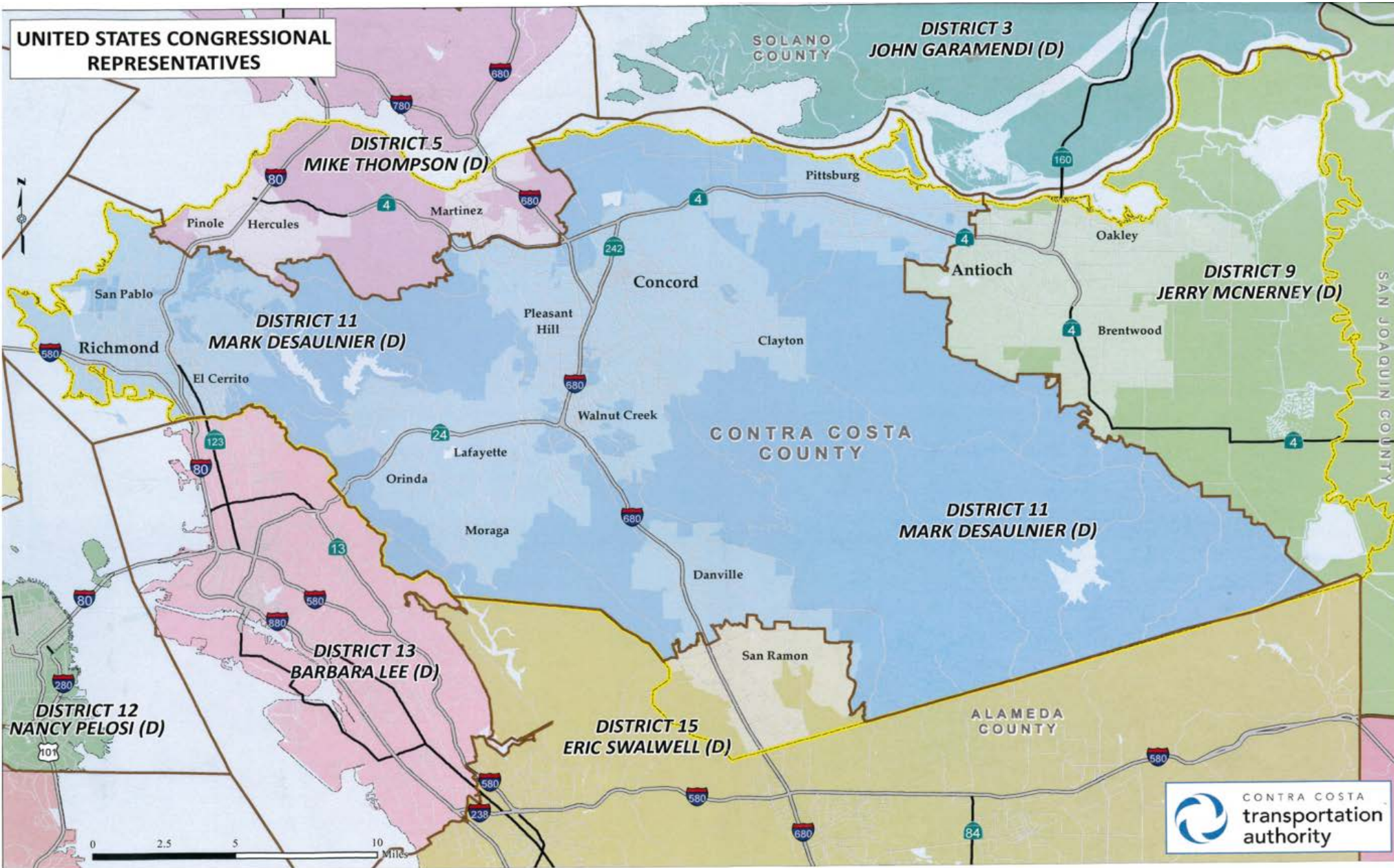




# Immigration Town Hall

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

AUGUST 5, 2019



"I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. **And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here.** That's how I saw it, and see it still."

*President Ronald Reagan  
Farewell Address  
January 11, 1989*

# Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1790** – 1790 Naturalization Act – established the country's first uniform rule for naturalization. Allowed all "free white persons" who resided in the U.S. for 2 years to be granted citizenship.
- ▶ **1882** – Chinese Exclusion Act – suspends immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years. This is the first of many bills restricting or limiting Chinese immigration.
- ▶ **1921** – 1921 Emergency Quota Act – Congress' first attempt to regulate immigration by setting admission "quotas" based on nationality. It limited the number of immigrants annually to 3 percent of the number of foreign-born persons of that nationality present in the U.S.
- ▶ **1948** – Displaced Persons Act of 1948 – allows over 200,000 individuals displaced from their homelands by Nazi persecution to immigrate to the U.S.

# Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1965** – 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act– abolishes the national-origins quota system and replaces it with a family-based and employer-based system.
- ▶ **1980** – Refugee Act of 1980 – establishes a new statutory system for processing and admitting refugees and asylum seekers and broadens the definition of refugee.
- ▶ **1982** – Immigration Reform and Control Act – imposes sanctions on employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants and creates 2 legalization programs, resulting in ~2.7 million people eventually becoming lawful permanent residents.
- ▶ **1990** – 1990 Immigration Act – raises legal admissions on employment-based immigrants and limits the government’s power to deport immigrants for ideological reasons.
- ▶ **1996** – Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrants Responsibility Act – establish “expedited removal,” expands mandatory detention, reduces government benefits available to immigrants, and toughens procedural requirements for asylum seekers.

# Modern Immigration Law & Actions

- ▶ **2001** – USA Patriot Act – broadens terrorism grounds for excluding people from entering the U.S.
- ▶ **2002** – Homeland Security Act – creates the Department of Homeland Security.
- ▶ **2005** – REAL ID Act – establishes statutory guidelines for removal cases, expands terrorism-related grounds for deportation and inadmissibility, increases border infrastructure, and requires states to implement REAL ID driver's licenses.
- ▶ **2012** – President Obama creates Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- ▶ **2013** – “Gang of 8” proposal that was never considered in the House.

# The Many Benefits of Immigration

- ▶ Immigrants added about **\$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP** in 2016
  - ▶ Researchers estimate in California they added between \$4.6 and \$8 billion\*
- ▶ In 2010, more than **40% of Fortune 500 companies** were founded by immigrants and their children
- ▶ 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants have higher incomes than their parents
- ▶ Immigration induced a **4% real wage increase** for the average **native worker** between 1990 and 2004
- ▶ The inflow of STEM workers driven by H-1B visas during the period 1990-2010 **explains up to 30% of the productivity growth** in U.S. cities

# Administration's Actions

- ▶ Implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy
  - ▶ Family separation
  - ▶ Possible need for additional detention centers
- ▶ Backtrack on DACA
- ▶ Cancellation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- ▶ Muslim Ban
- ▶ Border wall
- ▶ Attempt to drastically reduce legal immigration numbers by moving to "merit-based" system
- ▶ Dismantling our asylum system

# Trip to the Border

Trip #1 hosted by the Democratic Women's Working Group to McAllen and Brownsville, TX.

Federal courthouse, Border Patrol Processing Center, Port Isabel Detention Center, and Brownsville Point of Entry

Trip #2 hosted by Rep. Juan Vargas to San Ysidro  
San Ysidro Port of Entry,  
border infrastructure system,  
border barrier

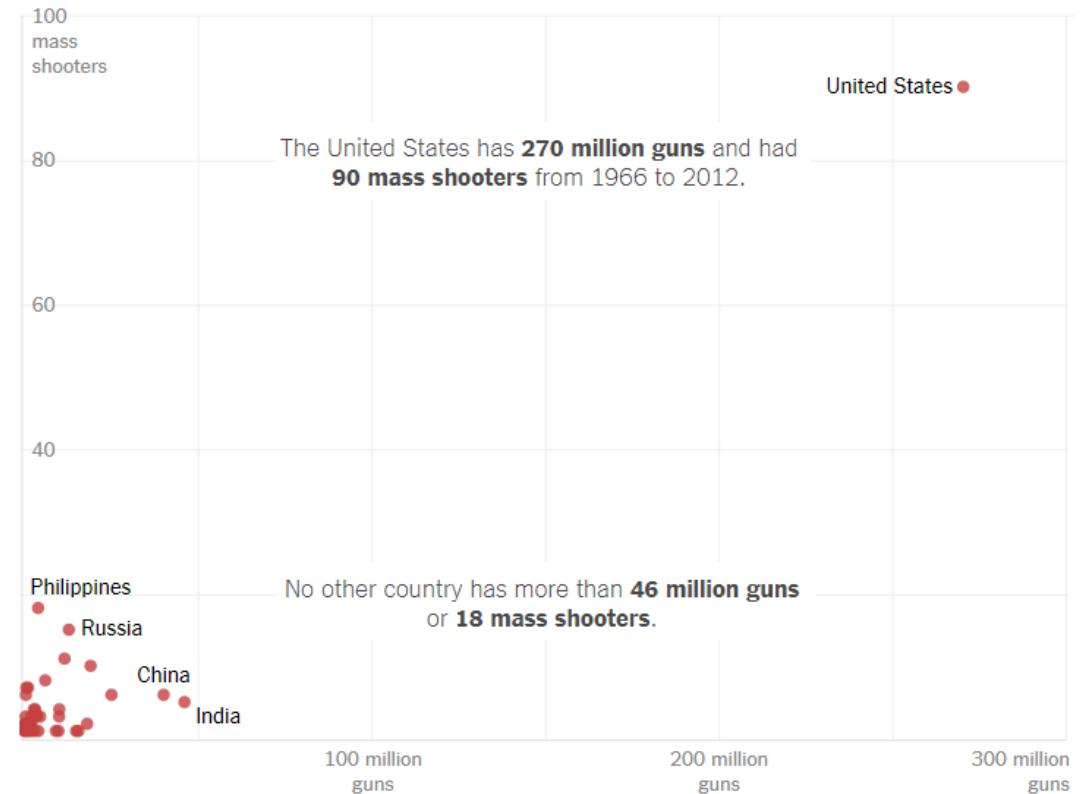


# Congressman DeSaulnier's Efforts

- ▶ **Family Separation**: Sponsor **more than 15 bills** to put an end to family separation and prioritize family reunification
- ▶ **Border Detentions**: Sponsor and voted in support of bills that would improve border detention conditions. Also opposed a bill to provide more funding to the Administration that would allow them to increase unsafe detentions
- ▶ **Miscellaneous**: Support legislation to protect Dreamers, put an end to the Muslim Ban, prevent federal funds from being used to construct a border wall, and more – including Uniting and Securing America Act (Hurd-Aguilar)

# Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States
- ▶ The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries
- ▶ Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world's guns**.
- ▶ Gun industry annual net profit: **\$1.5 billion**
  - ▶ Annual cost of gun violence: **\$290 billion**
- ▶ Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **\$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies



# Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Since taking control of the House in January, Democrats have passed:
  - ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - would ensure background checks for all gun sales
    - ▶ Polls show that 90% of Americans support universal background checks
  - ▶ **Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1112)** – would give the FBI 10 days to complete background checks
- ▶ Proudly hold an **F** rating from the NRA
- ▶ Since taking public office, I have authored bills to:
  - ▶ Require gun owners to immediately report when their firearms are lost or stolen
  - ▶ Enact commonsense safety standards for safe storage of federal law enforcement weapons
  - ▶ Make guns themselves safer by using biometric technology
  - ▶ Currently drafting bill to create a Gun Safety Board to assess proposals to reduce gun violence based on effectiveness

# Immigration Panel

- ▶ **Sarah Gavigan** – Staff Attorney, CARECEN SF- AILA NorCal
- ▶ **Heliodoro Moreno** – Public Defender Removal Defense Attorney, Stand Together CoCo
- ▶ **Jane Lee** – Attorney, Catholic Charities East Bay
- ▶ **Lisa García Bedolla** – Vice Provost of Graduate Studies & Dean of the Graduate Division Professor, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley

# Sarah Gavigan

## *Staff Attorney, CARECEN SF- AILA NorCal*

Sarah was born and raised in the Bay Area. She holds a B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law. Since being admitted to the California Bar in November 2013, Sarah has represented unaccompanied children, as well as families, in their fight against deportation, both as an attorney with ProBAR Children's Project in Texas's Rio Grande Valley and now with CARECEN SF. Through CARECEN SF, Sarah is proudly a part of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC), which envisions a just and equitable world in which no human is subject to persecution, no immigrant faces deportation without legal representation, and everyone enjoys the basic human right of free and safe movement.

# Heliodoro Moreno

## ***Public Defender Removal Defense Attorney, Stand Together CoCo***

*Helio was born in Martinez and raised in Pittsburg by a Mexican immigrant family. Helio served 5 years in the United States Marine Corps., serving a tour in Iraq and Afghanistan. After being honorably discharged from the military, Helio graduated cum laude from California Western School of law in San Diego, California. Helio has extensive litigation experience before the Immigration Courts, having been lead counsel in over 160 completed cases. He also represented numerous clients before the Board of Immigration Appeals, U.S. District Courts, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Helio is now with the Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender serving as the senior removal defense attorney with Stand Together Contra Costa, our county's immigration legal services, community education, and rapid response program.*

# Jane Lee

## *Attorney, Catholic Charities East Bay*

Jane S. Lee is a staff attorney at Catholic Charities of the East Bay working on family based and humanitarian based immigration cases. She earned her J.D. at the Washington College of Law, American University in Washington, D.C. and her B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to working at CCEB, she worked at the Children and Family Law Program, Committee for Public Counsel Services in Salem, MA, representing children and parents in child welfare cases.

# Lisa García Bedolla

*Vice Provost of Graduate Studies & Dean of the Graduate Division Professor, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley*

Professor García Bedolla earned her PhD in political science from Yale University and her BA in Latin American Studies and Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley. Lisa García Bedolla is a Professor in the Graduate School of Education and Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies. She studies the causes of political and economic inequalities in the United States, considering differences across the lines of ethnorace, gender, class, geography, sexuality, et cetera.

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