



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Wilma Chan

Biography

Assemblywoman Wilma Chan (D-Oakland) is an outspoken advocate on behalf of California children and their families.

Her legislative priorities include health care, senior services, early childhood education, environmental health, job creation and economic development.

Ms. Chan is the Chairwoman of the Assembly Committee on Health.

Ms. Chan served as the Assembly Majority Leader from 2002-2004, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the position. She also served as Assembly Majority Whip from 2001-2002.

Chan serves on the Assembly Budget Committee, Education Finance subcommittee. She is a member of the Assembly Committees on Transportation, and Labor.

During 2004, Chan Chaired the Joint Senate-Assembly Legislative Audit Committee, which provides oversight to state agencies and entities that receive state funds. Chan's goal was to improve government-funded programs and services and make them more cost-effective. She initiated audits on the use of state funds to outsource California jobs and on the oversight of grants made by the California Department of Parks.

Chan is carrying legislation to ban BPA and phthalate chemicals from baby products because of links to adverse health effects. Chan is also carrying legislation, now on the Governor's desk to make health insurance available to all California children. She is undertaking an initiative to provide voluntary pre-school for all children. Chan represented California at the National Governor's Forum on Quality Preschool in Florida to discuss pre-school efforts throughout the country.

Previously, Chan Chaired the Select Committee on California Children's School Readiness and Health and the Assembly Select Committee on Asian Trade. She is the former Co-Chair of the Asian-Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. Chan is a member of the Legislative Women's Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Internet Caucus and Smart Growth Caucus.

Chan has authored new laws to make California the first state to ban toxic PBDEs and led

the successful legislative effort making permanent food stamps and cash assistance to low-income legal immigrant families and seniors. Chan also won approval of legislation reintroduce nutrition into the health curriculum in public schools. Ms. Chan carried legislation to phase-out birth defect and cancer causing chemicals in California. She co-authored successful legislation to increase affordable housing, promotes smart growth and increase funding to education.

In 2004, Chan launched the "Adopt A School - Partnership for Success" linking civic groups, businesses, unions, neighborhood and service groups with local public schools. More than a dozen businesses, colleges, health providers and neighborhood group have signed on. She has 'adopted' Fruitvale Elementary School in Oakland and is working with the parents, teachers, neighbors, community and civic groups to improve the health and education of the 700 students who attend the school. A new child development center opened in 2003.

In the last four years, Chan has recruited more than 1000 volunteers to spruce up childcare centers in Oakland and Alameda at an annual event.

Assemblywoman Chan has been honored by the American Lung Association, the City of Los Angeles, Chinese-American Voter Education Committee, National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter, the American Association of University Women, California Hunger Action Network, Alameda County Tobacco Control Coalition and the Soroptimists among others. The Chinese language newspaper World Journal named her "Person of the Year". The Alameda Rotary gave her the Paul Harris award.

Ms. Chan was elected to the Assembly in 2000, bringing 25 years of community service and ten years of hands-on legislative experience to the Legislature.

Before winning election to the Assembly, Ms. Chan was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1994 and re-elected in 1998. On the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Chan chaired the Health Committee. Ms. Chan was the first Chair of the Alameda County Children and Families Commission, which is distributing \$20 million annually in new funds for the children's services. Rob Reiner, Chair of the state Children and Families Commission called Alameda County's Commission the 'crown jewel' because of its comprehensive approach to early childhood development.

Her accomplishments at the Board of Supervisors included expanding the number of school-based health clinics, championing efforts to build a new Emergency Room and Critical Care Building for the Alameda County Medical Center, Highland Hospital, and developing the strategic plan on the future of health care services in Alameda County. Chan also served as a member of the Oakland School Board.

Wilma Chan represents the cities of Oakland, Alameda and Piedmont in the California State Assembly.

Ms. Chan holds a BA from Wellesley and a Masters Degree in Education Policy from

Stanford University. A resident of Oakland for more than 20 years, Chan lives in Alameda. She is the mother of two children.