



Delaine Eastin

August 20, 1947 – April 23, 2024



Focusing on **Family Services, Child Welfare and Mental Health in California**, our hybrid meeting in San Diego featured a beautiful memorium to former state Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin. Her memory tells the story in her own words, from the files of Children's Caucus founder, Steve Chessin, of how "...children are our future, and it has never been clearer that their needs must have a stronger voice in the political process." [*letter to Members of the CA Dem Rules Committee, 3 February 1996*]

As our school boards, university campuses and the very electoral process itself, comes under attack from those who would exploit chaos and our children's issues to undermine democracy, Delaine Eastin's vision and voice continue to focus our path.

Go **here** to catch Mr Chessin's throughline on her important political role from inception to the path ahead, at the youtube channel (**@cdpchildrenscaucus**) of our freshly recertified Children's Caucus.

## **Child Welfare and Mental Health in California**

We **heard first** from the head of child welfare in our host County, San Diego. Child welfare is administered in California through each of its 58 counties individually. Dr Kim Giardina lays out the current political landscape, refocus of foundational effort and perspective in the social services world (Kin First Culture – see slides **here**), and some ongoing funding challenges. It's a really helpful introduction to the concerns for and around our most vulnerable youth, and grounding for the subsequent personal and professional experiences conveyed.

Social worker Ms Mirna Ariza, [shared](#) her unique perspective of working within the system, of which she was formerly a client. And pediatric psychiatrist Dr Gaurav Mishra with San Ysidro Health discussed systems of care serving children, from community clinics to community schools, with insights ranging the gamut from sobering to heartening (slides [here](#)).

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## ***Budgetary landscape for Family Services***

The program was expertly presented by Children's Caucus treasurer, Dr Tiffany Sickler, Executive Director of Koinonia Family Services, a non-profit providing foster care and adoption services to children and families in need. Her [report](#) focused on May's [budgetary revision](#) and two items touched on by the speakers, critical to supporting our state's most vulnerable youth: the (a) foster care rates proposal, and (b) bridge funding to hold safe family service agencies caught between a switchover from state to federal funding.

Please express your own opinion regarding these children's issues; the Caucus' official position is necessarily the Party's, and the Party has no official position on the budgetary revision. [Reach out](#) directly to your state representatives (find their contact information [here](#)) about extending foster care and bridge funding set to expire on June 30, 2024.

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## ***Supporting Children***

All our caucus' officers shared their current advocacy focus on behalf of children's issues, as [did](#) Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, [school board](#) and DNC candidates, [legislation](#) and [ballot initiative](#) advocates. Please give them all a listen at the full meeting [here](#).

Foreshadowing our upcoming, special meeting, also scheduled for the morning of **June 15, 2024**, high school athlete Emma Vibel [spoke](#) to "Keeping The Law" on SB1137, the Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California ([#CAYouthVsBigOil](#)).

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## ***Environmental Justice For Children***

So important is this issue of Environmental Justice and our children's future, that we will convene a special, hour-long zoom meeting around it expressly, on

## How Environmental Justice Plays Out on the Playground

**JoinUS on Zoom!**

for a panel discussion moderated by  
Sara Roos, CADEM Children's  
Caucus chair, and  
RL Miller, chair emerita  
of the CADEM  
Environmental  
Caucus

Touching on:

- Health effects of fossil fuels on kids
- CalSTRS: How to drain Big Oil from the school yard
- The Inflation Reduction Act: How school boards can access benefits
- Project 2025: a blowtorch to civil and environmental rights
- Electric school buses are awesome!



Saturday, June 15, 2024 @ 9:30am

Zoom registration:  
[tinyurl.com/Cadem4EJ](https://tinyurl.com/Cadem4EJ)  
[CADEMChildrensCaucus.org](https://CADEMChildrensCaucus.org)



**Saturday, 9:30am**  
**June 15, 2024**

**JoinUS!**

Inspired by the lead of Climate Hawk advocate and former chair of the CADEM Environmental Caucus, RL Miller, the conversation will be curated primarily on oil/gas and energy issues. We will consider how and where are our kids vulnerable; who's looking out for our children. Topics include:

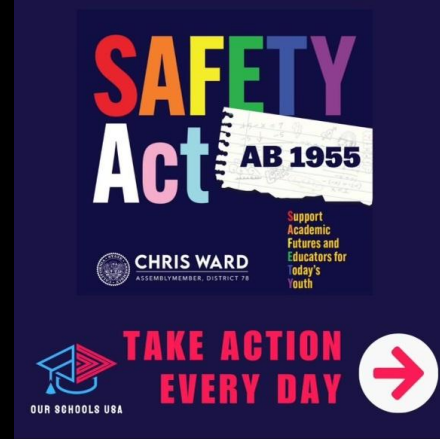
- *Health effects of fossil fuels on young and growing bodies. What happens when an oil well or a refinery is built next to a school, or a school is built on an old toxic site? What's an oil well setback and why does it matter?*
- *How does CalSTRS bolster the fossil fuel industry? How can you take action?*
- *What's in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for schools? How can school boards tap into its generous IRA benefits – investing in the community, benefiting all our kids? In completely related news, why are electric school buses so awesome?*

**JoinUS! [tinyurl.com/Cadem4EJ](https://tinyurl.com/Cadem4EJ)**

## Protecting Our Kids

Communications Director, Ahmanise Sanati, in partnership with Our Schools LA and its co-founder, Kristi Hirst, speaker at last fall's endorsing convention in Sacramento about the jeopardy in our schools - to kids, school boards and the electoral process ... urges your immediate

calls to boost CDP-endorsed AB1955 (Ward) addressing the concerted effort to enact [forced outing policies](#) up and down the state. Click the picture for action details:



Identify and contact your  
legislator here

## Down Ballot Candidate Training

Southern California Vice Chair and Children's Caucus chair emerita, Ann Crosbie, offers training in partnership with the [San Diego Democratic Education Alliance](#), for nonpartisan, down ballot candidates to offices such as school and water boards.



June 15, 2024 at noon  
[tinyurl.com/SBTrainwSDDEA](https://tinyurl.com/SBTrainwSDDEA)

Candidate Training  
Registration

## Coming Up, Resources

The next meeting of the CDP will be announced after the June 27, 2024 ballot measure deadline. Look for our regular Children's Caucus meeting to be held via zoom during mid-July, 2024, scheduled around the Party's next Executive Board meeting. We may focus on defensive strategies around school board meeting incursions and countering candidates from the MAGA movement.

Similar such allied resources may be found from the [Public School Defenders Hub](#), training with the ACLU for the [Education Complaint Guide](#), held via zoom on **Thursday, June 13 at 4:00 pm**.

They will host in person training for School Board Observers on **Thursday, June 27, 6:30-8:30 pm** in Anaheim. Register via email: [programs@contemporarypolicyinstitute.org](mailto:programs@contemporarypolicyinstitute.org)

Stay tuned to our [website](#) or your [email](#) for notification of our conversation series with PLEOs about children's issues.

## Membership News

The Children's Caucus loves our members! Thank you for sharing of your experience and insight, for joining with the membership and collectively working to grow an understanding and effectiveness in the group. Our dues support caucus infrastructure and communications; a special shout-out in gratitude for encouragement beyond the standard level to:

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- Patron:
    - 👤 Jim Gallagher
    - 👤 Terri Lisagor
    - 👤 Aba Ngissah
    - 👤 Stacey Sampo
    - 👤 Angela D. Scott
    - 👤 Teri Sorey
    - 👤 Tiffany Woods
  - Mentor:
    - 👤 Anonymous
    - 👤 Harini Krishnan
  - Benefactor:
    - 👤 Renay Grace Rodriguez
- 

We will never name you without explicit permission. If your name is not listed here and should be, please contact [chair.cademcc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.cademcc@gmail.com)

To join the Children's Caucus, click [here](#) to pay membership dues (press on the fifth "+" down), or [here](#) to request waiver of membership dues.

To align memberships with CADEM's new calendar-year payment schedule, dues paid Nov/Dec, 2023, have been grandfathered for 2024, but dues waivers should be resubmitted for each new calendar year.

As of May 9, 2024, the Children's Caucus counts its membership at 136, including several student memberships! Thank you all...

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Standard Dues (\$15/annum)	<b>Update Your Caucus Membership ~</b>	(Youth) Pre-registered as a Democrat (\$5/annum)
Patron Member Dues (\$25/annum)	Dues support our hybrid programming costs - media and communications	Benefactor Lifetime Member Dues (\$500)
Mentor Member Dues (\$50/annum)	subscriptions, conference meeting facilities	Request Dues Waiver

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## More important Caucus links

- Socials:
  - 👤 Locate our growing **WEBSITE** [here](#)
  - 👤 Find CDP Children's Caucus on **Facebook** [here](#)
  - 👤 Follow us on **Instagram** @childrenscaucus [here](#)

- 🐦 [Tweet @ChildrensCaucus here](#)
- 🐦 Join our new @cdpchildrenscaucus [Slack](#) channel
- 🐦 Watch our [youtube](#) channel @cdpchildrenscaucus [here](#)
- Engagement:
  - 🐦 Follow regional news E & A Watch postings from [North](#) and [South](#)
  - 🐦 Download missed newsletters [here](#)
  - 🐦 Prioritize a working committee [here](#)
  - 🐦 Signup for the email listserv with fellow caucus members [here](#)  
...then communicate directly with the membership via [email](#)
- Caucus business:
  - 🐦 Review the 2023-24 Annual Children's Caucus Report [here](#)
  - 🐦 View 2024's recertified Bylaws [here](#)
  - 🐦 Submit this year's caucus dues [here](#); (request dues waiver [here](#))

### **CademCC Executive Board:**

- Sara Roos, Chair
- Matthew Hilliard, NoCal VC
- Ann Crosbie, SoCal VC
- Tiffany Sickler, Treasurer
- Aba Ngissah, Secretary

### **Elections Chair:**

- Koreen Cea

### **Communications Team:**

- Liz Kane
- Ahmanise Sanati
- Nelson Tam

## **A note on membership and inclusion**

\* You needn't be an elected or appointed delegate to the CDP to belong to the CDP Children's Caucus!

*We require only your interest in supporting children's issues. \**

CDP caucus membership is accessible to all California Democrats. And meeting attendance does not require Convention or Eboard Meeting registration. It is a good way to engage the state Party, without being a voting delegate to it. Dues are collected annually [here](#); request a hardship waiver [here](#). Direct questions to: [chair.cademcc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.cademcc@gmail.com). If you no longer wish to receive news from the Children's Caucus, please accept our apologies for troubling you, and simply unsubscribe through the automated link below.



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