

MAY 31
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FIGHTING FOR RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR ALL

UNION UPDATE



"We're going to work to ensure that all working people have the retirement they deserve, that they earned from working all of their lives."

-Yvonne R. Walker, President

President Yvonne R. Walker joined Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León and State Treasurer John Chiang May 18 to express their commitment to keep California's Secure Choice Program on track to provide millions of California workers with retirement security, despite attacks from Wall Street interests.

"It is our duty to stand up and fight back to address the retirement crisis in this country," Walker said. "This is a national crisis."

The Secure Choice Program is a voluntary workplace retirement savings plan that enables employees to save for retirement through payroll contributions.

It promises to bring retirement security to nearly seven million California workers.

On May 17, President Trump signed legislation that threatened the security of retirement programs like Secure Choice.

"The resolutions in Washington, they're not going to stop us because we're going to work to ensure that all working people have the retirement they deserve, that they earned from working all of their lives," said Walker. "I am proud of the fact that I live in California."

Nationwide, 40 million working families have no retirement savings.

In California, more than 75% of low- and moderate-income retirees rely exclusively on Social Security, leading to significant financial hardship. As a result, those retirees are often forced to turn to the social safety net to meet their basic needs.

"I for one am not comfortable with someone who has worked all of their life, to then have to retire in poverty," Walker said. "This is not acceptable for me personally and it is certainly not acceptable for the California I know that we are. We are as determined as ever to launch California Secure Choice."

ROB BONTA: LEADER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL



Assemblymember Bonta draws inspiration from childhood memories of API labor leaders like Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz.

“I grew up going to rallies and demonstrations and with my parents strongly articulating their views about justice and how to be more fair and equitable,” Bonta said.

A star soccer player and valedictorian of his high school class, Bonta thought of becoming an attorney “who fights for the underdog,” he said.

Working his way through college cleaning laundry rooms, he achieved his dream with a law degree from Yale.

As a private attorney, he fought to protect his clients from exploitation and racial profiling and was undefeated at trial. He later served on the Alameda City Council and, as Vice Mayor of that city, fought to protect social services for the most vulnerable members of the community.

As an Assemblymember, Bonta introduced historic legislation that would require California public schools to teach the rich contributions of Filipino-Americans in the farm labor movement. Governor Brown signed it into law in 2013.

We recognize Bonta for his many contributions to the ongoing struggle for social and economic justice for all.

As the first and only Filipino-American elected to the State Assembly in California’s 165-year history, Rob Bonta is among a new generation of American politicians leading the fight for social and economic justice for all.

As the representative of the 18th Assembly district, which covers Oakland, Berkeley and other cities in the east Bay, Bonta is driven by values and a passion for social and economic justice he witnessed as a child, growing up as a neighbor of Cesar Chavez.

His father, JR Warren, marched with Martin Luther King in Selma and was later involved in California’s farm labor movement working at the United Farm Workers headquarters, collecting petition signatures for the lettuce boycott.

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– Rob Bonta, Assemblymember, 18th District

UNION INFORMATION

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