



Sierra Sacramento Valley Medicine

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Richard Pan, MD, (D) Assembly District 5



By Richard Pan, MD

Dr. Pan and Dr. Bera were given a similar set of questions. Following are Dr. Pan's responses.

Why Are You Running for Office?

California needs more leaders with real world experience in public office. As Chair of the CMA Council on Legislation, I witnessed how much effort CMA had to spend educating legislators about health care. As a legislator, I will bring my experiences as a practicing physician, a SSVMS President, and CMA Trustee to shaping policies that impact medicine and the state. I also am dismayed by the dysfunction in state government and its negative impacts on both the local and California economy. I am committed to working on solutions to our state's problems and not partisan posturing. I want to build a California that I want my child and all of our children and grandchildren to live and prosper in.

Can You Make a Difference?

I can make a difference with the support and help of my friends and colleagues. I will bring experience and knowledge about health care, education, and business from my experience and accomplishments as a practicing physician; a leader in SSVMS, CMA, and AMA; a residency director and leader in higher education; a community leader; and a co-founder of a small business.

I will advocate for accountability in state government. I have a Masters in Public Health with a focus on program evaluation and clinical effectiveness. As a Sacramento First 5 Commissioner, I chaired the Commission Evaluation Committee, and now as Chair of the Impact Council Chairs for the United Way California Capital Region, I have required demonstration of effectiveness of every impact program United Way funds.

Your Thoughts on Health Reform?

Successful health system reform needs to address access, cost, and quality, and the foundation of all three must be the patient-physician relationship. Access to a strong patient-physician relationship where the physician can provide continuous, coordinated care will reduce unnecessary spending and improve patient adherence and quality.

Health system reform also needs to change incentives focused on treating acute episodes to providing incentives for chronic condition management and prevention.

Experience?

I am Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Residency Director at UC Davis where I founded and direct Communities and Physicians Together, which partners resident physicians with community collaboratives to improve community health. I am a SSVMS Past-President, CMA Trustee for our region and a past-Chair of the CMA Council on Legislation, a Past-Chair and member of the AMA Council on Medical Education, and Vice-Chair of the California American Academy of Pediatrics.

In the community, I chair and co-founded Healthy Kids Healthy Future, a five county non-profit that provide health, dental, and vision coverage for children; am a board member and Chair of the Impact Council Chairs for the United Way California Capital Region; a board member of BloodSource; and served on the Sacramento First 5 Commission.

Awards I have received for my accomplishments include the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Medical Honor Award, American Academy of Pediatrics/American Medical Association Abraham Jacobi Memorial Award, United Way California Capital Region Clarence La Rue Outstanding Volunteer Award, Campus Compact Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning, California School Nurses Organization Lydia Smiley Award, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento Hearts and Hands Award, and the University of California, Davis Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity and Community.

What Would You Want to Accomplish?

I will fight for a healthy change in California where the state encourages the creation of jobs and new businesses, where quality education from preschool to vocational school and graduate school is available to create a stronger workforce, and where quality health care is accessible to all Californians. To address California's problems, voters need to be engaged in a dialogue about the value of the activities of our state government and how they should be supported.

How Can Physicians Help?

A recent poll showed that I will win if the voters learn who I am. As a political outsider, I need you, my fellow physicians, to contribute and volunteer to get my message to the voters. Please go to my website at www.panforassembly.com to learn how to help. Your contributions to my election are deeply appreciated.