

Dear Friend,

First and always, thank you for your public service. It wasn't easy for us to get to the California Legislature and perhaps even more challenging to move our legislation. But we did it! And the state is better for it.

I am writing to ask for your help so that many more progressive women can have a hand in shaping California's future. Close the Gap CA is a campaign to increase the number of progressive women in the California legislature by recruiting talented, community-based, policy-focused women to run for the open seats in 2014 and 2016. I am excited to Chair the Board for this effort.

We are partnering with Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, public school supporters and children and family advocacy organizations focused on reducing poverty. Together, we are identifying women whose skills and records of accomplishment will make them effective in Sacramento.

Changes to California's term limit law in 2012 mean that nearly half the legislative seats will be open in 2014 and 2016. We will not have an opportunity like this again until 2022. With women accounting for only 26% of the California legislature, we can't wait. Can you help with one or more of these:

1. Lend your name to the campaign as an ally.
2. Join our speakers' bureau and share your experience as a woman legislator and the importance of having more women in the Capitol.
3. Scout! You are among the best judges when it comes to gauging political and policy talent. We'll share the open seats and you send us your recommendations.
4. Become a closer! After we have researched and vetted women recommended to us, we need persuasive pros to make the case that the sacrifices involved in campaigning and serving are worth it. Only you can speak to this critical issue.
5. Host a lunch for prospective donors or make an introduction to a woman donor who would support this work.
6. Make a contribution: [closethegapca.org/donate](https://closethegapca.org/donate)

In the past decade, the percentage of women in the legislature has declined from

30% to 26%. Let's reverse the trend and close the wage gap, the school funding gap and the gap in access to reproductive health care by sending many more progressive women to the legislature than would run in 2014 and 2016 without this effort.

Wouldn't that be delightful?

The fate of our state rides on our ability to advance progressive, well-crafted policies. As we know, and as research confirms, progressive women legislators are the key ingredient in securing those policies.

So, please join me and close the gap CA. Just reply to this note and let me know how you'd like to pitch in and we'll follow up.

Looking forward to reconnecting,



Delaine  
Chair  
close the gap CA

P.S. More information here: [closethegapca.org](http://closethegapca.org).

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