



## President & CEO Message January 31, 2020

This week we end our first legislative deadline for 2020 – House of Origin. Bills must pass out of their original house in order to be considered in the second house. CRA has several bills we track for our members and the CRA team is working the halls of the State Capitol advocating on our members' behalf. After today's deadline, CRA members are updated on bill status and are invited to participate in monthly policy calls where the CRA team and our contract lobbyists do a deep dive into the policy issues we are tracking and possible impact on retail in California.

Looking forward to February, we quickly approach bill introduction deadline on February 21st. Yes, CRA will have a new crop of bills to sift through and analyze their impact on CRA's member companies. We already know we will continue to address the packaging issue along with predictive scheduling and gender pricing but look for more bills being introduced that CRA will need to ensure do not have a negative impact on retail in the state. Point of Sale pass throughs seems to be an ever-increasing option for additional funding for various "environmental" projects. CRA's top priority is that our members have the most up to date information on issues that impact them.



Speaking of predictive scheduling, I had a very informative meeting with Senator Connie Leyva, the author of the bill and am hopeful CRA will have the opportunity to work with her and her staff to incorporate suggestions from our members on her pending legislation. CRA will continue to work closely with her office as the bill moves through the process and member companies will be apprised on all developments that will impact their business in California concerning employee scheduling.

Senator Connie Leyva

I also had the pleasure this week of attending a VIP reception and lunch with Governor Newsom. He talked at length about energy, wildfires and homelessness and his environmental priorities. CRA is working to ensure we have meetings scheduled with the Administration for our members during our March Lobby Day to advocate how we can collaborate with him and his team on his legislative priorities.



As we turn to 2020, we look toward the March Primary and November General Election. CRA members are briefed on California's political outlook, both on races for the State Legislative and the California Congressional delegation and statewide ballot initiatives. CRA closely monitors the initiatives and their impacts on business in California and is actively involved in ensuring the retail voice is represented as ballot initiatives are debated. These initiatives address a variety of issues including Organized Retail Crime, Privacy, increase in commercial property taxes and PAGA.

The CRA internal team and our team of lobbyists are on the front lines advocating for our members on policy, regulatory and political issues across the state and we are working hard to ensure retail can thrive in our state. If your company is not a member of CRA, now is the time to join! Please reach out to me directly so we can talk about options and how you can get involved and gain access to our services other retailers are already taking advantage of.

California is a complex state and 2020 will pose many challenges for retail, but you can have the CRA team on your side ready and willing to assist you in making sure retail, and your company, thrives in our state.

# Rachel