

Overview

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John Duarte has never looked out for the Valley - only himself. In Washington, he is blindly following the most extreme members of his party at the expense of Valley families.

Duarte Said He Was “Not That Far” From Colleagues In The Freedom Caucus On Fiscal Issues. “Rep. John Duarte, R-Modesto, one of California’s most vulnerable congressional Republicans — he won his seat by fewer than 600 votes last year — caused a stir Tuesday when he told Punchbowl News that on fiscal policy he’s ‘not that far from a lot of’ his colleagues in the House Freedom Caucus. That’s the chamber’s most-conservative bloc, whose members tend to back former President Donald Trump. It includes Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan and Matt Gaetz among others. [...] ‘Shrinking the size of our bloated federal agencies, lowering taxes on working families and small businesses, and unleashing American industry are the fiscal policy backbone which I share with members from all factions and all sides of the Republican party,’ he said.” [Sacramento Bee, [6/28/23](#)]

Duarte Voted With Bob Good 76% Of The Time. [Pro Publica, Compare Votes, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Head to Head: Compare Voting Records

Compare the voting records of Robert Good and John Duarte in 2023-24.



Robert Good ▾

Republican · [View profile](#)

Represents Virginia's 5th Congressional District. This was his 2nd term in the House. He is a current member of Congress.



John Duarte ▾

Republican · [View profile](#)

Represents California's 13th Congressional District. This was his 1st term in the House. He is a current member of Congress.

Robert Good and John Duarte are from the same party and have agreed on 76 percent of votes in the 118th Congress (2023-24).

[Pro Publica, Compare Votes, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **Bob Good Was The Chair Of The House Freedom Caucus.** “Last night, the House Freedom Caucus chose Congressman Bob Good (VA-05) to be its next chairman, to succeed Chairman Scott Perry (PA-10), starting in January 2024. Rep. Good has been a strong and vocal member of the Freedom Caucus since taking office in 2021, serving on the group’s Board of Directors as Whip and championing the positions and messages of the caucus.” [Congressman Bob Good, Press Release, [12/12/23](#)]

Message #1

John Duarte was an unethical and unfair business owner. He ripped off farmers by knowingly selling them defective trees and then refusing to reimburse them – costing them millions of dollars. Duarte allegedly refused to pay wages owed to his employees, refused to reimburse them for their own out of pocket expenses, and even denied employees mandated rest and meal breaks.

John Duarte was an unethical and unfair business owner. He ripped off farmers by knowingly selling them defective trees ...

Duarte Nursery Knowingly Sold Defective Trees To Farmers Causing Them Millions In Losses

Duarte Nursery Sold Defective Trees To Farmers, Causing Millions Of Dollars In Losses. “Duarte Nursery of Hughson stopped selling defective pistachio trees in 2014, but litigation over the matter goes on. Several plaintiffs claimed the nursery did not disclose a genetic disorder that caused more than half a million trees to grow poorly. The defendants include company President John Duarte, who is running for Congress in the November 8 election. Judge John Freeland ruled in the growers' favor in Stanislaus County Superior Court in March but has yet to hear arguments on monetary damages. The ruling cites at least \$8.8 million in losses claimed by the growers. The disorder is called bushy top syndrome, previously unknown in the pistachio belt from Merced to Kern counties. It causes trees to have stunted roots and branches and to produce fewer nuts than healthy trees of the same age. John Duarte told The Modesto Bee in 2015 that the syndrome resulted from a genetic mutation at the nursery. He also said he had reached legal settlements with most of the affected growers and hoped the others would follow. 'We want to work with our growers as much as we can,' Duarte said at the time. 'We want to maintain goodwill in the industry.' The terms of the settlements were not disclosed. Duarte could not be reached for comment on the current litigation, filed in 2015.” [Modesto Bee, [8/10/22](#)]

Statement Of Decision: “Defective Trees Were Knowingly Delivered To Growers.” “Defective trees were knowingly delivered to growers (Trial testimony of John Bahme, Sept 21, 24:26 - 28). The genetic defect causing the Chinos existed in the trees while at the nursery (Trial testimony of John Bahme, Sept 21, 36:28 - 37:2; 4:2-9; 67:25-28).” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, J Marchini & Son INC vs Duarte Nursery INC, Case #: 2016283, Statement Of Decision Page 20, [3/28/22](#)]

According To Court Records, Duarte Nursery “Knowingly” Sold Defective Pistachio Trees. “Defective trees were knowingly delivered to growers (Trial testimony of John Bahme, Sept 21, 24:26 - 28). The genetic defect causing the Chinos existed in the trees while at the nursery (Trial testimony of John Bahme, Sept 21, 36:28 - 37:2; 4:2-9; 67:25-28).” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, J Marchini & Son INC vs Duarte Nursery INC, Case #: 2016283, Statement Of Decision Page 20, [3/28/22](#)]

- **Court Records Stated That Duarte Had “Acknowledged” That The Genetic Mutation That Negatively Impacted Defective Trees Had “Occurred At The DNI Nursery.”** “The evidence presented demonstrates that DUARTE had full knowledge of the fact that an unknown portion or percentage of their UCB—1 rootstock contained Or carried a mutation which had a direct effect on the future growth and production of the pistachio tree. John Duarte acknowledged that the genetic mutation occurred at the DNI nursery. Dr. Bahme acknowledged that the genetic issues can be controlled by the nursery, that the genetic changes in this case occurred while the rootstock was at DUARTE Nursery. Duarte failed to inform Marchini of the growing and production problems of their UCB-1 rootstock prior to Marchini agreeing to buy the rootstock.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, J Marchini & Son INC vs Duarte Nursery INC, Case #: 2016283, Statement Of Decision Page 17, [3/28/22](#)]

... and then refusing to reimburse them –

According To Court Records Duarte Nursery Did Not Offer To Reimburse Farmers

According To Court Records, Duarte Nursery “Never Offered To Replace Trees” Or “Refund” The Buyer’s Deposit. “Ryan Jones farmed 40 acres of pistachio trees purchased from DNI. (Jones Declaration in Lieu of Testimony (‘Jones Decl.’) 3:14-15.) Before signing his contract and planting the first time he talked with Steve Scheuber, the Sales Manager for DNI. (Jones Decl. 2:11-12.) DNI never offered to replace Mr. Jones’ trees or refund his deposits. Although DNI offered to give him almond trees, he had no use for them. (Jones Dec]. 329-12.) Mr. Jones’ contract was identical to those of the other parties (other than Stiefvater). (Trial Exhibit 208.)” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, J Marchini & Son INC vs Duarte Nursery INC, Case #: 2016283, Statement Of Decision Page 14, [3/28/22](#)]

- **According To Court Records, John Duarte “Refused To Reimburse” A Plaintiff After She Incurred Losses From Removing Defective Trees.** “Lee Ann Jones (Kreps) had never worked in agriculture before buying pistachio rootstock from DNI (Kreps Declaration In Lieu of Testimony (‘Kreps Decl.’) 1:27-28). Ms. Kreps bought 40 acres of land from her father in 2012 in order to plant pistachio trees. (Kreps Decl. 2:1-4.) She understood she was buying UCB-1 pistachio rootstock; that’s what her contract said. (Kreps Decl. 2:5-7; Trial Exhibit 205.) She signed the contract without asking for changes, since she didn’t think she would get any anyway. (Kreps Decl. 2:10-12.) John Duarte testified in his deposition that DNI did not negotiate the terms of its disclaimer. (Deposition of John Duarte (‘Duarte Deposition’) Vol. 1, 18:2 — 24:20.) Ms. Kreps planted in 2013 and problems developed with the rootstock, including failure to grow, trunks that were gnarled and knotted, variable trunks, different leaf sizes and color. (Kreps Decl. 2:15-18). She removed her 2013 planting after talking with John Duarte, president of DNI, and Steve Scheuber, sales manager for DNI. (Kreps Decl. 2:19-21 .). In June, 2014, Ms. Kreps discussed her cultural costs with John Duarte, but Mr. Duarte refused to reimburse her. (Kreps Decl. 2:22-24.)” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, J Marchini & Son INC vs Duarte Nursery INC, Case #: 2016283, Statement Of Decision Page 13, [3/28/22](#)]

... costing them millions of dollars.

Duarte Nursery Sold Defective Trees To Farmers, Causing Millions Of Dollars In Losses

Duarte Nursery Sold Defective Trees To Farmers, Causing Millions Of Dollars In Losses. “Duarte Nursery of Hughson stopped selling defective pistachio trees in 2014, but litigation over the matter goes on. Several plaintiffs claimed the nursery did not disclose a genetic disorder that caused more than half a million trees to grow poorly. The defendants include company President John Duarte, who is running for Congress in the November 8 election. Judge John Freeland ruled in the growers’ favor in Stanislaus County Superior Court in March but has yet to hear arguments on monetary damages. The ruling cites at least \$8.8 million in losses claimed by the growers. The disorder is called bushy top syndrome, previously unknown in the pistachio belt from Merced to Kern counties. It causes trees to have stunted roots and branches and to produce fewer nuts than healthy trees of the same age. John Duarte told The Modesto Bee in 2015 that the syndrome resulted from a genetic mutation at the nursery. He also said he had reached legal settlements with most of the affected growers and hoped the others would follow. ‘We want to work with our growers as much as we can,’ Duarte said at the time. ‘We want to maintain goodwill in the industry.’ The terms of the settlements were not disclosed. Duarte could not be reached for comment on the current litigation, filed in 2015.” [Modesto Bee, [8/10/22](#)]

Duarte allegedly refused to pay wages owed to his employees, refused to reimburse them for their own out of pocket expenses, and even denied employees mandated rest and meal breaks.

Duarte Nursery Was Sued For Failing To Pay Employees And Provide Meals Or Rest Periods

Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navaro, Loyda Aguilar, And Olimpia Cano De Peral Filed A Class Action Lawsuit Against Duarte Nursery And Members Of Company Leadership For Failing To Pay Their

Employees, Failing To Provide Meal Or Rest Periods, And Violating Labor Laws. “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Pages 2 – 3, filed [4/22/15](#)]

This case has been assigned to Judge ROGER W. BEAUCHEMPE Department 247 for all purposes including Trial.

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 BY [Signature] DEPUTY

31487

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

Case No. 2014212-
 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

14 TERESA E. MENDEZ VILLEGAS, MARIA
 15 NAVARRO, LOYDA AGUILAR, OLIMPIA CANO
 16 DE PERAL, individually, acting in the interest of
 17 other current and former employees, and acting in the
 18 interest of the State of California.
 19 Plaintiffs,
 20 vs.
 21 DUARTE NURSERY, INC., a California corporation;
 22 MICHAEL DUARTE, an individual; JEFF DUARTE,
 23 an individual; JOHN DUARTE, an individual;
 24 PATRICIA LOPEZ, an individual; ENGRACIA
 25 LOPEZ, an individual; and DOES 1 through 20,
 26 inclusive,
 27 Defendants.

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
 2. Failure to Provide Rest or Pay
 Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
 3. Failure to Provide Timely and
 Complete Meal Periods or Pay
 Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
 4. Failure to Indemnify Employees For
 All Necessary Expenditures Or
 Losses Incurred
 5. Knowing and Intentional Failure to
 Comply with Itemized Employee
 Wage Statement Provisions
 6. Failure to Pay All Wages Owed
 Upon Termination or Resignation
 7. Violation of Unfair Competition
 Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
 §§ 17200 et seq.
 8. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code's
 Private Attorney General Act, Cal.
 Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
 REQUEST FOR COMPLEX DESIGNATION

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT – DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

[Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Pages 2 – 3, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Plaintiffs Alleged That Their Lawsuit Sprung From A Pattern Of Employer Misconduct And Wrongdoing At Duarte Nursery. “The claims of this lawsuit spring from a pattern of employer misconduct and wrongdoing that is a characteristic of the labor system utilized by DEFENDANTS, where unpaid and improperly paid labor, as alleged herein, is a common business practice. DEFENDANTS’ actions in this case demonstrate a systematic disregard for the rights afforded to PLAINTIFFS and the Class under California wage and hour law. The following paragraphs detail specific violations of law giving rise to this action.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Page 8, filed [4/22/15](#)]

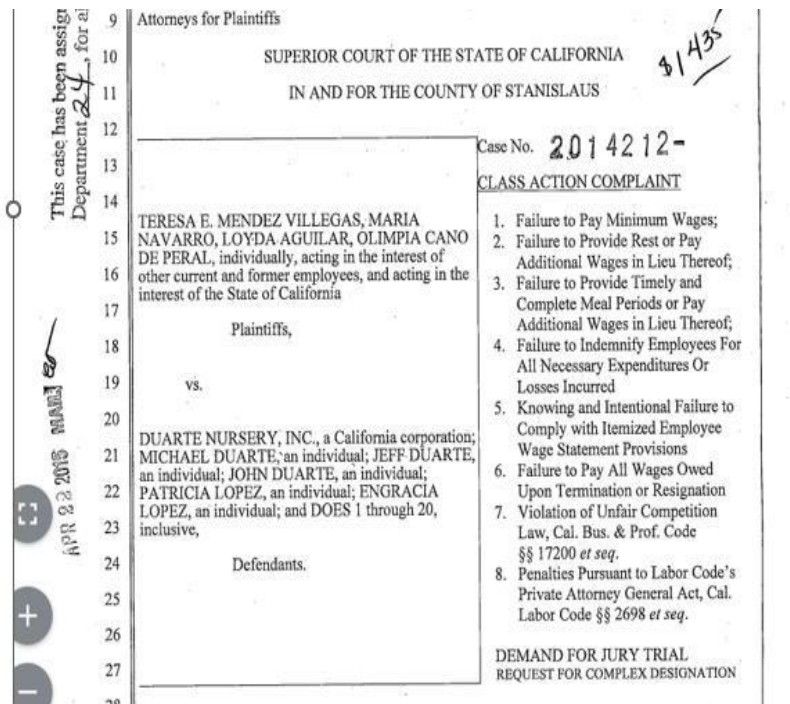
In Their Complaint, The Plaintiffs Alleged That Duarte Nursery Refused To Pay Owed Wages, Failed To Provide Necessary Rest Breaks, And Did Not Reimburse Employees For Necessary Expenses

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf

of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212 filed [4/22/15](#)]

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Allegations Included Failure To Pay All Wages Owed Upon Termination or Resignation.



[Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Provide Rest Or Meal Periods (Or Pay The Statutory Additional Wages Owed).” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs

[...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Reimburse Necessary Expenses Incurred.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

- **Plaintiffs Were Not Reimbursed For Their Own Personal Protection Equipment.** “failing to reimburse Class members, including PLAINTIFFS, for expenses incurred for providing their own personal protective equipment, uniforms and rubber boots, in violation of California law and public policy.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Message #2

- *To address the Valley’s historic shortage of doctors and lack of good-paying jobs, Adam Gray got to work. He secured more than \$200 million to establish a joint medical school at UC Merced and UCSF-Fresno. And Gray worked to secure millions more in high-skill, high-wage vocational and technical job training – including a job training facility in Modesto. In Congress, Gray will fight to ensure everyone has access to high quality, affordable health care and the skills they need to get good paying jobs.*
- *Adam Gray led the opposition to the State Water Grab and secured nearly \$3 billion to build new water storage, repair aging canals, and restore groundwater basins. In Congress he will fight to ensure everyone in the Valley has the vital water resources they deserve.*
- *Duarte and his company were sued for stealing wages and violating labor laws meant to protect workers. Duarte’s workers said they repeatedly were not paid wages owed to them and that they were not even allowed to take rest or lunch breaks after working long hours.*
- *As Americans struggle to make ends meet, John Duarte is making life in the Valley more expensive. Duarte voted to cut access to Social Security, and gut health care for our veterans and programs like Meals on Wheels. He even opposed legislation capping the price of insulin for local seniors at thirty-five dollars a month.*

To address the Valley’s historic shortage of doctors and lack of good-paying jobs, Adam Gray got to work.

HEADLINE: “To Address Physician Shortage, Central Valley Program Looks To Grow Its Own.”
[University of California, [7/12/22](#)]

The San Joaquin Valley Had The Lowest Number Of Doctors, Nurses And Nurse Practitioners Per 100,000 People Of Any Region In California. “Now, as a student in UC San Francisco’s San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME), Mora is training to be part of a new crop of homegrown physicians bringing care to one of the most medically-underserved regions of the state. The program is looking to recruit medical students who want to return home to serve the area where they grew up — providing much-needed care to families in the region. Among the fastest growing, poorest and least healthy regions of California, the San Joaquin Valley also has the lowest number of doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners per 100,000 people of any region in California. An added concern: Roughly 30 percent of this already stretched workforce is nearing the age of retirement.” [University of California, [7/12/22](#)]

He secured more than \$200 million to establish a joint medical school at UC Merced and UCSF-Fresno.

2019: Adam Gray Passed Legislation To Allocate \$200 Million For The Creation Of A Medical School At UC Merced. Gov. “Gavin Newsom visited the campus of UC Merced on Monday, throwing his support behind an effort to build a \$210 million medical education building on the campus. [...] Usually, expensive new buildings like the proposed medical education program at UC Merced are paid for through a bond. By state law, there is a cap on how much money can be bonded for building at University of California campuses. Two years ago, Gray passed budget language that took \$200 million in funding out from under the UC bond cap.”

- **The UC Merced Medical Program Would Work In Partnership With UCSF In Fresno.** “The announcement Monday by Newsom is the most significant backing by a governor to support UC Merced’s quest for a medical school — a goal that’s been on the wish list for Valley leaders since the early years of the university, which opened in 2005. Newsom highlighted the importance of educating medical students in Merced County and the Valley. ‘They will come here in the Valley and they will stay in the Valley. They will contribute and they will serve the residents and the people that made their education possible,’ Newsom said. ‘That’s exactly what we are promoting here today. That’s the promise and it’s a promise we can deliver.’ Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, and Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, explained the UC Merced program will work as a ‘distributive model’ in partnership with UCSF in Fresno.” [Merced Sun-Star via The Union Democrat, [10/26/21](#)]

And Gray worked to secure millions more in high-skill, high-wage vocational and technical job training – including a job training facility in Modesto.

Gray Secured \$2 Million In Funding For Modesto’s VOLT Institute And The Modesto Junior College To Help Californians Receive Vocational Training

2018-2019: Gray Secured \$2 Million For Modesto’s VOLT Institute And Modesto Junior College

2018: Gray Secured \$1 Million In Funding For The VOLT Institute In Modesto. “The VOLT Institute in Modesto has received a jolt from the state budget in the form of \$1 million in funding. It should create opportunity for training younger adults to work in industrial electronics, automation and equipment maintenance for large employers in Stanislaus County. On average, those higher-skilled jobs pay \$27.80 an hour. [...] Dave White, chief executive officer of Opportunity Stanislaus, said the state money will be used as matching dollars for a \$2 million federal grant for expansion of MJC vocational training and the VOLT Institute. White ran point to help Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, to get the funding into the state budget signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last week.” [Modesto Bee, [7/3/18](#)]

2019: Gray Secured An Additional \$1 Million For The VOLT Institute And Modesto Junior College.

“Assemblymember Adam C. Gray (D-Merced) praised the passage of the 2019-20 California State Budget and highlighted a number of investments vital to the success of working families in the San Joaquin Valley. [...] ‘Building on the state’s investment last year, the budget includes an additional \$1 million for the VOLT Institute

and Modesto Junior College to gives students the training they need to take on highly skilled manufacturing jobs at local employers like Gallo Winery, Del Monte Foods, and Crystal Creamery,' said Gray. 'The push to send every kid to a four-year university has created a lack of qualified blue-collar workers at a time when they are in high demand. These are good-paying jobs you can raise a family on without racking up thousands of dollars in student debt.'" [Merced County Times, [6/21/19](#)]

The Funding Would Be Used For Job-Training Partnerships And Help Students Receive Highly Skilled Manufacturing Jobs

2018: The \$1 Million In Funding For VOLT Institute Would Be Used To Fund A Job-Training Partnership.

"The VOLT Institute in Modesto has received a jolt from the state budget in the form of \$1 million in funding. It should create opportunity for training younger adults to work in industrial electronics, automation and equipment maintenance for large employers in Stanislaus County. On average, those higher-skilled jobs pay \$27.80 an hour. The state funds will expand a job-training partnership involving Modesto Junior College, Opportunity Stanislaus and the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE). The VOLT Institute, a private-sector-driven program launched in October, recently graduated a 30-member class of maintenance mechanics to work in local industries." [Modesto Bee, [7/3/18](#)]

2019: Gray Stated That The Funding For The VOLT Institute And Modesto Junior College Would Help Train Students To Take On "Highly Skilled Manufacturing Jobs." "Assemblymember Adam C. Gray (D-Merced) praised the passage of the 2019-20 California State Budget and highlighted a number of investments vital to the success of working families in the San Joaquin Valley. [...] 'Building on the state's investment last year, the budget includes an additional \$1 million for the VOLT Institute and Modesto Junior College to gives students the training they need to take on highly skilled manufacturing jobs at local employers like Gallo Winery, Del Monte Foods, and Crystal Creamery,' said Gray. 'The push to send every kid to a four-year university has created a lack of qualified blue-collar workers at a time when they are in high demand. These are good-paying jobs you can raise a family on without racking up thousands of dollars in student debt.'" [Merced County Times, [6/21/19](#)]

In Congress, Gray will fight to ensure everyone has access to high quality, affordable health care and the skills they need to get good paying jobs.

Gray: "Together We Are Making The Valley A Place Where Educational Prosperity And Quality Healthcare Exist." "Bringing a medical school to the Valley is the perfect example of what we can accomplish when we work together. Together we are making the Valley a place where educational prosperity and quality healthcare exist. Congratulations to UC Merced for another step forward!" [Adam Gray, Twitter, [11/15/23](#)]



[Adam Gray, Twitter, [11/15/23](#)]

Gray Said He “Will Take The Fight” For “Quality Healthcare And Education, Safe Communities, And Water For Our Farmers” To Congress. “Quality healthcare and education, safe communities, and water for our farmers. These are the things I fought for in the state legislature. Now I will take this fight to congress. Are you with me?” [Adam Gray, Twitter, [9/1/23](#)]



[Adam Gray, Twitter, [9/1/23](#)]

Adam Gray led the opposition to the State Water Grab...

Gray Spoke Out Against And Defeated AB 2639, Also Known As The “State Water Grab”

AB 2639 Was Termed A “State Water Grab”

HEADLINE: “Water Grab Legislation AB 2639 Defeated In California.” [Western Growers Association, [5/31/22](#)]

The Western Growers Association Called AB 2639 A “State Water Grab” As It “Would Have Prohibited The State Water Board From Issuing Any New Water Rights Permits, Putting The Sites Reservoir Project In Danger.” “AB 2639, a bill that would have accelerated the adoption of the Bay-Delta Plan, was defeated in the California Assembly last week due to a coordinated effort of ag and water stakeholders working with key legislators. The bill, authored by Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) additionally would have prohibited the State Water Board from issuing any new water rights permits, putting the Sites Reservoir project in danger. ‘I appealed to my colleagues on a very personal level,’ said Assemblymember Adam Gray (D-Merced). ‘There is no other region of the state that would be as heavily impacted by this bill as my district and the people I represent. I asked my colleagues to consider what they would ask of me if their districts were similarly targeted. I told the story of the decades-long fight my community has waged against the water grab, and how the State Water Board has decided that the impacts to our economy and our drinking water are ‘significant, but unavoidable.’ I asked them if the Assembly was prepared to make the same decision.’ Forty four members of the Assembly either abstained or voted no on the bill, denying it the 41 votes it needed to pass.” [Western Growers Association, [5/31/22](#)]

Gray Spoke Out Against AB 2639 And Helped Lobby Votes Against It, Leading To The Bill’s Failure

HEADLINE: “Assemblyman Gray Responds To Latest Water Grab Legislation.” [Merced County Times, [5/25/22](#)]

Gray Spoke Out Against AB 2639 And Introduced Hostile Amendments To The Bill. “Assemblymember Adam Gray, D-Merced, took the unusual step Tuesday of submitting a ‘hostile amendment’ to Assembly Bill 2639 which, if enacted, would force Northern San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts to give up enormous amounts of water used by residents in their homes and farmers in their fields. ‘Environmental extremists are addicted to San Joaquin Valley water, and they are tired of waiting for their next fix,’ Gray said in reference to AB 2639, written by Assemblymember Bill Quirk, D-Hayward. ‘My constituents won’t be sacrificial lambs.’ [...] Gray’s amendment would add two provisions to the bill. First, it would require the State Water Board to evaluate the impacts the plan would have on groundwater basins that serve as the source of drinking water for thousands of households in the Valley. Second, it would nullify Quirk’s bill if the plan was found to hurts the drinking water supplies of the most impoverished communities in the state.” [Merced County Times, [5/25/22](#)]

Gray Said He Rounded Up Forty-Four Votes In Order To Defeat AB 2639. “A moderate Democrat in the California Assembly says he rounded up 44 votes to defeat a bill that would have accelerated an update of the Bay-Delta Plan, which governs water quality in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Assembly Bill 2639 by Assemblyman Bill Quirk, D-Hayward, would have required the plan to be implemented by December 2023, which could upend negotiations with water districts over voluntary agreements. [...] The bill was opposed by water and agricultural groups, and Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, called the proposal a ‘state water grab.’ He said he appealed to his colleagues on a personal level. ‘There is no other region of the state that would be as heavily impacted by this bill as my district and the people I represent,’ Gray said. ‘I asked my colleagues to consider what they would ask of me if their districts were similarly targeted.’” [Farm Progress, [6/1/22](#)]

2018: Gray Organized A Rally Of Over 1,500 Farmers, Community Leaders And Urbanites To Protest The State Water Grab

2018: Gray Organized A Rally Of Over 1,500 Farmers, Community Leaders And Urbanites To Protest The State Water Grab. “More than 1,500 farmers, community leaders and urbanites attending an Aug. 20 rally sent a passionate message to the California State Water Board about their disgust with its proposed unimpaired San Joaquin River flows. The event — organized by Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, and held on the steps of the state Capitol in Sacramento — was to draw attention to the effects the proposal would have on the fragile Central Valley economy, which relies on agriculture as its No. 1 industry. Speaker after speaker pointed out the flawed

science as well as a lack of transparency behind the proposal. In between, the crowd chanted ‘stop the water grab’ or ‘fight, fight, fight.’” [Rice Farming, [8/21/18](#)]

... and secured nearly \$3 billion to build new water storage, repair aging canals, and restore groundwater basins.

Gray Ensured That \$2.75 Billion Would Be Included In The 2014 Water Bond For Storage. “Defeated AB 2639, a bill that would have accelerated the adoption of the State Water Grab, officially known as the update to the Bay-Delta Plan, and jeopardized water storage projects like Sites Reservoir. Ensured that \$2.75 billion would be included in the 2014 water bond for storage. Without that leadership, funding for storage would have been zero. Organized the 2018 rally that saw 1,500 Valley residents converge on the Capitol steps to protest the State Water Grab.” [Adam Gray for Congress, issues, accessed [9/6/24](#)]

In Congress he will fight to ensure everyone in the Valley has the vital water resources they deserve.

Gray Said He “Will Take The Fight” For “Water For Our Farmers” To Congress. “Quality healthcare and education, safe communities, and water for our farmers. These are the things I fought for in the state legislature. Now I will take this fight to congress. Are you with me?” [Adam Gray, Twitter, [9/1/23](#)]



[Adam Gray, Twitter, [9/1/23](#)]

Duarte and his company were sued for stealing wages and violating labor laws meant to protect workers.

April 2015: Teresa Mendez Villegas, Et Al. Filed A Class Action Lawsuit Against Duarte Nursery For Violating California Labor Laws

Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navaro, Loyda Aguilar, And Olimpia Cano De Peral Filed A Class Action Lawsuit Against Duarte Nursery And Members Of Company Leadership For Failing To Pay Their Employees, Failing To Provide Meal Or Rest Periods, And Violating Labor Laws. “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER

DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Pages 2 – 3, filed [4/22/15](#)]

This case has been assigned to Judge REGINALD BRADY for all purposes including Trial.
APR 22 2015

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FILED
APR 22 2015
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

Case No. 2014212-
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

15 TERESA E. MENDEZ VILLEGAS, MARIA
16 NAVARRO, LOYDA AGUILAR, OLIMPIA CANO
17 DE PERAL, individually, acting in the interest of
18 other current and former employees, and acting in the
19 interest of the State of California
20 Plaintiffs,

vs.

21 DUARTE NURSERY, INC., a California corporation;
22 MICHAEL DUARTE, an individual; JEFF DUARTE,
23 an individual; JOHN DUARTE, an individual;
24 PATRICIA LOPEZ, an individual; ENGRACIA
25 LOPEZ, an individual; and DOES 1 through 20,
26 inclusive,
27 Defendants.

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Provide Rest or Pay
Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
3. Failure to Provide Timely and
Complete Meal Periods or Pay
Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
4. Failure to Indemnify Employees For
All Necessary Expenditures Or
Losses Incurred
5. Knowing and Intentional Failure to
Comply with Itemized Employee
Wage Statement Provisions
6. Failure to Pay All Wages Owed
Upon Termination or Resignation
7. Violation of Unfair Competition
Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
§§ 17200 et seq.
8. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code's
Private Attorney General Act, Cal.
Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
REQUEST FOR COMPLEX DESIGNATION

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

[Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Pages 2 – 3, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Plaintiffs Alleged That Their Lawsuit Sprung From A Pattern Of Employer Misconduct And Wrongdoing At Duarte Nursery, Including A Failure To Pay Wages

Plaintiffs Alleged That Their Lawsuit Sprung From A Pattern Of Employer Misconduct And Wrongdoing At Duarte Nursery. “The claims of this lawsuit spring from a pattern of employer misconduct and wrongdoing that is a characteristic of the labor system utilized by DEFENDANTS, where unpaid and improperly paid labor, as alleged herein, is a common business practice. DEFENDANTS’ actions in this case demonstrate a systematic disregard for the rights afforded to PLAINTIFFS and the Class under California wage and hour law. The following paragraphs detail specific violations of law giving rise to this action.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Page 8, filed [4/22/15](#)]

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212 filed [4/22/15](#)]

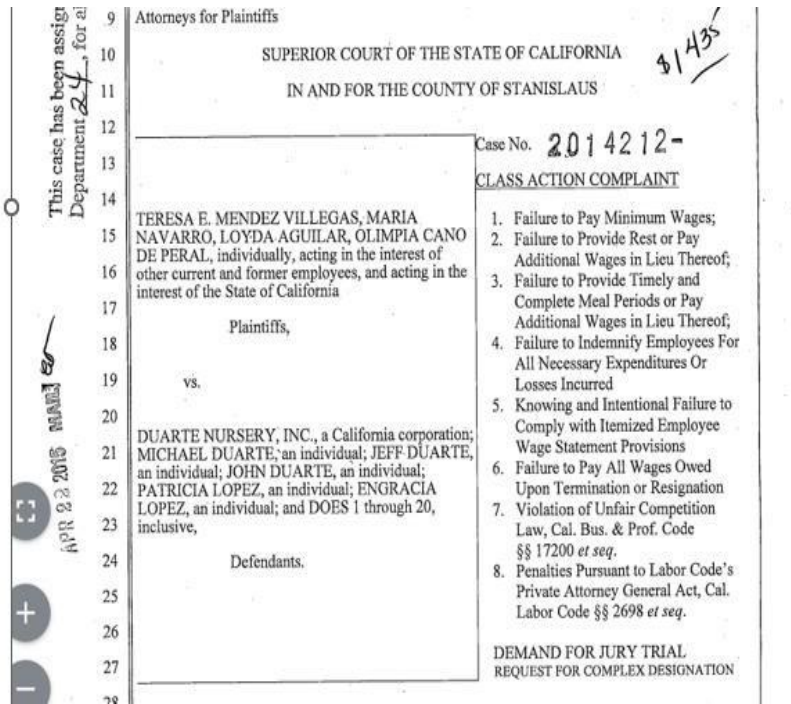
Duarte's workers said they repeatedly were not paid wages owed to them and that they were not even allowed to take rest or lunch breaks after working long hours.

Allegations From Duarte's Lawsuit Included Failure To Pay Wages, Provide Adequate Breaks After Working Long Hours, And More

Allegations Against Duarte Nursery Included Failing "To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed" And Failing To Pay Wages Owed After Termination Or Resignation

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For "Failure To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed." "Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral ("collectively PLAINTIFFS") bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred." [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212 filed [4/22/15](#)]

Allegations Included Failure To Pay All Wages Owed Upon Termination or Resignation.



[Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Allegations Against Duarte Nursery Included Failing "To Provide Rest Or Meal Periods (Or Pay The Statutory Additional Wages Owed)"

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Provide Rest Or Meal Periods (Or Pay The Statutory Additional Wages Owed).” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Duarte’s Employees Claimed They Were Not Reimbursed For Their Own Personal Protection Equipment

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Reimburse Necessary Expenses Incurred.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

- **Plaintiffs Were Not Reimbursed For Their Own Personal Protection Equipment.** “failing to reimburse Class members, including PLAINTIFFS, for expenses incurred for providing their own personal protective equipment, uniforms and rubber boots, in violation of California law and public policy.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

As Americans struggle to make ends meet – John Duarte is making life in the Valley more expensive. Duarte voted to cut access to social security...

April 2023: Duarte Voted For Suspending The Debt Limit Through March 2024 Or Until \$1.5 Trillion Has Been Reached And Capping Federal Spending For FY 2024 At 2022 Levels With A Capped 1% Per Year Growth. In April 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **The Republican Debt Limit Deal Would Worsen Social Security Wait Times.** “Today, the White House released 51 fact sheets highlighting the devastating impacts of the Default on America Act on states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the Default on America Act would have devastating impacts on the American people. It would: [...] Worsen Social Security and Medicare Assistance Wait Times for Seniors. Under the House Republicans’ Default on America Act, people applying for disability benefits would have to wait at least two months longer for a decision. With fewer staff available, seniors would also be forced to endure longer wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare, and as many as 240 Social Security field offices could be forced to close or shorten the hours they are open to the public.” [White House, [5/2/23](#)]

... and gut healthcare for our veterans...

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gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **The Republican Legislation Would Cut \$2 Billion For Veteran Healthcare.** “Not only does this bill do nothing to protect veterans’ programs from these devastating cuts over the next decade, it also immediately rescinds \$2 billion in funding to support veterans—putting veterans’ health and wellbeing at immediate risk by delaying access to health care and benefits they have earned. Clawing back this funding would leave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) underfunded by \$2 billion, putting veterans’ healthcare in jeopardy ” [House Committee on Appropriations, [5/9/23](#)]

... and programs like Meals on Wheels.

April 2023: Duarte Voted For Suspending The Debt Limit Through March 2024 Or Until \$1.5 Trillion Has Been Reached And Capping Federal Spending For FY 2024 At 2022 Levels With A Capped 1% Per Year Growth. In April 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **Cutting Federal Spending By 22% Was Expected To Take Away Nutrition Services Such As Meals On Wheels.** “A 22 percent cut would take away nutrition services, such as Meals on Wheels, from more than 1 million seniors. For many of these seniors, these programs provide the only healthy meal they receive on any given day.” [The White House, [4/20/23](#)]

He even opposed legislation capping the price of insulin for local seniors at thirty-five dollars a month.

Duarte Said He Would Not Have Voted In Support Of The Inflation Reduction Act. “Q: ‘Would you have voted in support of President Joe Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act?’ A: ‘No. President Biden and Nancy Pelosi’s new law did nothing to fight inflation — and, according to most economists, this law will cause everyday items to get even more expensive. As your congressman, I’ll vote to stop the federal binge spending that is causing inflation. I’ll make sure our farms have water so food is affordable. I’ll suspend the gas tax so gas is cheaper. I’ll vote to ease unfair rules and fees on new housing so that people can afford to buy or rent in our community. I’ll vote for a middle-class tax cut. People shouldn’t have to pick between buying food, gas or filling their prescriptions.’” [Sacramento Bee, [10/12/22](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Capped The Cost Of Insulin To \$35 Per Month. “The Inflation Reduction Act caps out-of-pocket spending at \$35 per month’s supply of each insulin product covered under Medicare. These provisions are making insulin more affordable for many people covered by Medicare.” [Department of Health and Human Services, [8/16/23](#)]

Message #3

- *Protecting our seniors is a priority for Adam Gray. In Congress, he will staunchly oppose any cuts to Social Security and Medicare, protecting the benefits our seniors have worked their entire lives to earn.*
- *Adam Gray has improved healthcare for Valley families by passing legislation to double the operating hours of rural health clinics. He made prescription drugs more affordable with legislation to allow California to make their own lifesaving drugs at lower prices rather than being beholden to Big Pharma. He also supported a law to prevent price gouging by drug companies.*
- *Duarte and his company were sued for stealing wages and violating labor laws meant to protect workers. Duarte’s workers said they repeatedly were not paid wages owed to them and that they were not even allowed to take rest or lunch breaks after working long hours.*
- *As Americans struggle to make ends meet, John Duarte is making life in the Valley more expensive. Duarte voted to cut access to Social Security, and gut health care for our veterans and programs like Meals on Wheels. He even opposed legislation capping the price of insulin for local seniors at thirty-five dollars a month.*

Protecting our seniors is a priority for Adam Gray. In Congress, he will staunchly oppose any cuts to Social Security and Medicare, protecting the benefits our seniors have worked their entire lives to earn.

2021: In A Letter To The Editor, A Modesto Resident Thanked Adam Gray For Getting Their Son’s Social Security Benefits Approved. “Adam Gray got it done My son has been struggling for months to receive his Social Security benefits. I reached out to Assemblyman Adam Gray for help. After a week, my son was finally approved for his benefits and the matter has been straightened out. Thank you, Adam Gray, for your help. Billie Simms, Modesto” [Modesto Bee, [2/7/21](#)]

2024: A Californian Said She Supported Gray Because He “Has Plans To Expand Services For Seniors, Including Better Medicare Coverage And More Support For Home Care.” “Eleanor Davis, 73, a retired nurse in Gustine, supports Gray. ‘Healthcare is very important to me, and I believe Gray’s policies will help improve access and affordability for everyone. As someone who worked in healthcare for many years, I know how crucial it is to have proper funding and support for our hospitals and clinics. Duarte’s focus seems to be elsewhere, and while I appreciate his work in other areas, Gray’s commitment to healthcare is what matters most to me.’ Davis also highlighted Gray’s stance on senior services. ‘Gray has plans to expand services for seniors, including better Medicare coverage and more support for home care. At my age, these issues are very personal and critical.’” [Westside Connect, [8/15/24](#)]

Adam Gray has improved healthcare for Valley families by passing legislation to double the operating hours of rural health clinics.

Gray Was The Lead Author Of AB 1130. According to the California State Legislature, Adam Gray was the lead author on AB 1130. [California State Legislature, AB 1130, introduced [1/31/15](#)]

October 2015: AB 1130 Was Signed Into Law. [California State Legislature, AB 1130, signed [10/30/15](#)]

According To The California State Assembly's Health Committee Analysis, AB 1130 Would Extend The Limit On Hours Of Operation On Clinics, Including Rural Health Clinics, From 20 Hours A Week To 30.

“SUMMARY: Extends the limit on the hours of operation for an intermittent primary care community or free clinic, from 20 hours a week to 30. [...] Community clinics and health centers are nonprofit, tax-exempt clinics that are licensed as community or free clinics, and provide services to patients on a sliding fee scale basis or, in the case of free clinics, at no charge to the patients. These include federally designated community health centers, migrant health centers, rural health centers, and frontier health centers.” [California State Legislature, AB 1130, Bill Analysis, [4/11/15](#)]

He made prescription drugs more affordable with legislation to allow California to make their own lifesaving drugs at lower prices rather than being beholden to Big Pharma.

In August 2022, Gray Voted For SB 838, A Bill Related To Prescription Drugs. According to the California State Legislature, SB 838 “Existing law, the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, requires the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) to enter into partnerships, in consultation with other state departments as necessary to, among other things, increase patient access to affordable drugs. Existing law requires CHHSA to enter into such partnerships to produce or distribute at least one form of insulin, if a viable pathway for manufacturing a more affordable form of insulin exists at a price that results in savings. Existing law, for the purposes of implementing the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, until December 31, 2027, permits CHHSA and its departments to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts on a bid or negotiated basis. This bill would require CHHSA to establish metrics to measure progress and efficiency, and remedies in the case those metrics are not met, and include those metrics and remedies in any contract entered into pursuant to these provisions. The bill would eliminate the viability requirement for the manufacturing of insulin pursuant to these provisions and would require any partnership, among other things, to consider guaranteeing priority access to insulin supply for the state. This bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the development of a California-based manufacturing facility for insulin with the intent of creating high-skill, high-paying jobs within the state.” [California State Legislature, SB838, [8/29/22](#)]

According To Health Access California, SB 838 Would Allow The State To Lower Prices Of Generic Drugs Such As Insulin By Operationalizing California's Manufacturing Of These Drugs. “Prescription Drugs: SB 838 (Pan) Operationalizes California’s effort to manufacture generic drugs and insulin, including biosimilars, so that the State can lower drug prices by contracting with manufacturers.” [Health Access California, 2022 Legislative Scorecard, accessed [8/27/24](#)]

He also supported a law to prevent price gouging by drug companies.

September 2017: Gray Voted For SB 17, Which Attempted To Promote Transparency In Pharmaceutical Pricing. In September 2017, Gray voted for the passage of SB 17. According to the University of California Law Scholarship Repository, “The California Drug Transparency Bill (SB-17), passed in October 2017, seeks to promote transparency in pharmaceutical pricing, enhance understanding about pharmaceutical pricing trends, and assist in managing pharmaceutical costs. This chapter examines the legal and regulatory aspects of SB-17, compares it to other state efforts to address rising drug prices, discusses how legal and political hurdles constrain the ability of states to pass significant legislation to rein in drug prices, and offers additional information relevant to California’s efforts to control drug pricing.” [California State Legislature, SB 17, Votes, [9/11/17](#); The Judges’ Book via University of California Hastings Law Scholarship Repository, [2019](#)]

SB 17 Required Manufacturers To Notify Purchasers 60 Days Before Any Price Increase Which Exceeded 16%. “Disclosures by Pharmaceutical Manufacturers. SB-17 requires manufacturers to notify purchasers 60 days before any price increase that exceeds 16% over a two-year period for all drugs with a wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) greater than \$40.9 The WAC is a national price charged by the manufacturer to wholesalers. In addition, manufacturers must notify the California Offices of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) about any new pharmaceutical with a WAC above the threshold WAC of a specialty drug under Medicare Part D (over \$670 per month). Manufacturers must also provide OSHPD with information on the factors used to determine the WAC, usage, and marketing materials. Overall, these provisions will provide policymakers with information that already exists in the public domain but that might otherwise be difficult to collect and aggregate. The real value of these provisions, however, lies in their ability to help shape the scope of state legal boundaries surrounding drug pricing reform.” [The Judges’ Book via University of California Hastings Law Scholarship Repository, [2019](#)]

Duarte and his company were sued for stealing wages and violating labor laws meant to protect workers.

April 2015: Teresa Mendez Villegas, Et Al. Filed A Class Action Lawsuit Against Duarte Nursery For Violating California Labor Laws

Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navaro, Loyda Aguilar, And Olimpia Cano De Peral Filed A Class Action Lawsuit Against Duarte Nursery And Members Of Company Leadership For Failing To Pay Their Employees, Failing To Provide Meal Or Rest Periods, And Violating Labor Laws. “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Pages 2 – 3, filed [4/22/15](#)]

This case has been assigned to Judge **ROGERA, BEAUMESNE** Department **247**, for all purposes including Trial.

APR 22 2015 MAIL

FILED
APR 22 2015
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

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31425

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

Case No. **2014212-**
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

14 TERESA E. MENDEZ VILLEGAS, MARIA
15 NAYARRO, LOYDA AGUILAR, OLIMPIA CANO
16 DE PERAL, individually, acting in the interest of
17 other current and former employees, and acting in the
18 interest of the State of California
19 Plaintiffs,
20 vs.
21 DUARTE NURSERY, INC., a California corporation;
22 MICHAEL DUARTE, an individual; JEFF DUARTE,
23 an individual; JOHN DUARTE, an individual;
24 PATRICIA LOPEZ, an individual; ENGRACIA
25 LOPEZ, an individual; and DOES 1 through 20,
26 inclusive,
27 Defendants.

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Provide Rest or Pay Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
3. Failure to Provide Timely and Complete Meal Periods or Pay Additional Wages in Lieu Thereof;
4. Failure to Indemnify Employees For All Necessary Expenditures Or Losses Incurred
5. Knowing and Intentional Failure to Comply with Itemized Employee Wage Statement Provisions
6. Failure to Pay All Wages Owed Upon Termination or Resignation
7. Violation of Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.
8. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code's Private Attorney General Act, Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
REQUEST FOR COMPLEX DESIGNATION

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT – DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs Alleged That Their Lawsuit Sprung From A Pattern Of Employer Misconduct And Wrongdoing At Duarte Nursery, Including A Failure To Pay Wages

Plaintiffs Alleged That Their Lawsuit Sprung From A Pattern Of Employer Misconduct And Wrongdoing At Duarte Nursery. “The claims of this lawsuit spring from a pattern of employer misconduct and wrongdoing that is a characteristic of the labor system utilized by DEFENDANTS, where unpaid and improperly paid labor, as alleged herein, is a common business practice. DEFENDANTS’ actions in this case demonstrate a systematic disregard for the rights afforded to PLAINTIFFS and the Class under California wage and hour law. The following paragraphs detail specific violations of law giving rise to this action.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Villegas, Teresa E Mendez VS Duarte Nursery Inc, Case #: 2014212, Civil Complaint Page 8, filed [4/22/15](#)]

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, Case #: 2014212 filed [4/22/15](#)]

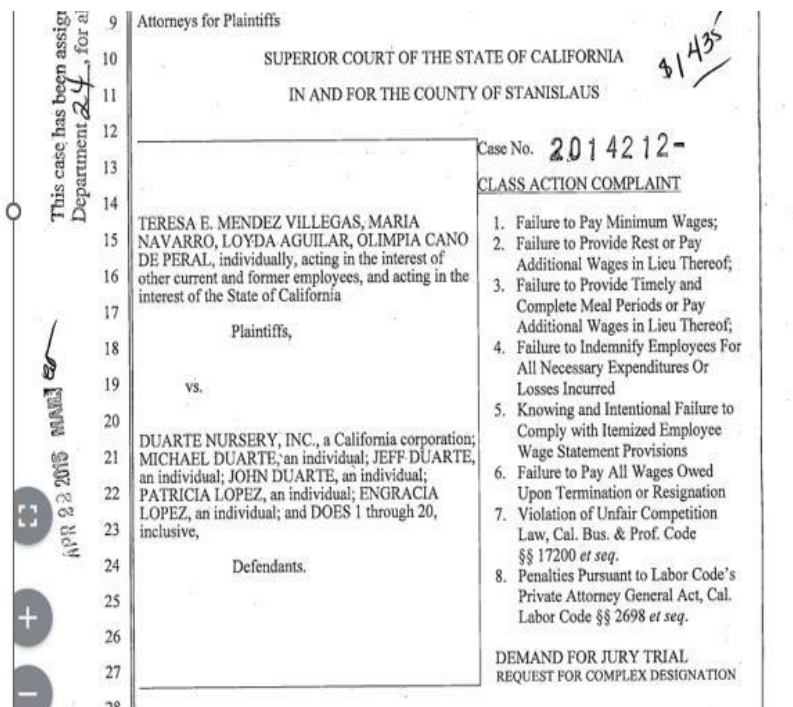
Duarte’s workers said they repeatedly were not paid wages owed to them and that they were not even allowed to take rest or lunch breaks after working long hours.

Allegations From Duarte’s Lawsuit Included Failure To Pay Wages, Provide Adequate Breaks After Working Long Hours, And More

Allegations Against Duarte Nursery Included Failing “To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed” And Failing To Pay Wages Owed After Termination Or Resignation

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Pay All Minimum Wages Owed.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimpia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, Case #: 2014212 filed [4/22/15](#)]

Allegations Included Failure To Pay All Wages Owed Upon Termination or Resignation.



[Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Allegations Against Duarte Nursery Included Failing “To Provide Rest Or Meal Periods (Or Pay The Statutory Additional Wages Owed)”

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Provide Rest Or Meal Periods (Or Pay The Statutory Additional Wages Owed).” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary expenses incurred.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

Duarte’s Employees Claimed They Were Not Reimbursed For Their Own Personal Protection Equipment

April 2015: Duarte Nursery Was Sued For “Failure To Reimburse Necessary Expenses Incurred.” “Plaintiffs Teresa Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, and Olimpia Cano De Peral (“collectively PLAINTIFFS”) bring this action against Duarte Nursery, INC., Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopes, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals employed under common circumstances and facts. [...] This is a wage and hour class action to vindicate the rights afforded employees by California labor law. This action is brought by Plaintiffs [...] for themselves and on behalf of a Class of similarly situated individuals. [...] The core violations PLAINTIFFS allege against the EMPLOYER DEFENDANT are: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages owed; (2) failure to keep accurate time records; (3) failure to provide rest or meal periods (or pay the statutory additional wages due); and (4) failure to reimburse necessary

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- **Plaintiffs Were Not Reimbursed For Their Own Personal Protection Equipment.** “failing to reimburse Class members, including PLAINTIFFS, for expenses incurred for providing their own personal protective equipment, uniforms and rubber boots, in violation of California law and public policy.” [Stanislaus County Superior Court, Teresa E. Mendez Villegas, Maria Navarro, Loyda Aguilar, Olimia Cano De Peral VS Duarte Nursery, Michael Duarte, Jeff Duarte, John Duarte, Patricia Lopez, Engracia Lopez, Case #: 2014212, filed [4/22/15](#)]

As Americans struggle to make ends meet – John Duarte is making life in the Valley more expensive. Duarte voted to cut access to social security...

April 2023: Duarte Voted For Suspending The Debt Limit Through March 2024 Or Until \$1.5 Trillion Has Been Reached And Capping Federal Spending For FY 2024 At 2022 Levels With A Capped 1% Per Year Growth. In April 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **The Republican Debt Limit Deal Would Worsen Social Security Wait Times.** “Today, the White House released 51 fact sheets highlighting the devastating impacts of the Default on America Act on states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the Default on America Act would have devastating impacts on the American people. It would: [...] Worsen Social Security and Medicare Assistance Wait Times for Seniors. Under the House Republicans’ Default on America Act, people applying for disability benefits would have to wait at least two months longer for a decision. With fewer staff available, seniors would also be forced to endure longer wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare, and as many as 240 Social Security field offices could be forced to close or shorten the hours they are open to the public.” [White House, [5/2/23](#)]

... and gut healthcare for our veterans...

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- **The Republican Legislation Would Cut \$2 Billion For Veteran Healthcare.** “Not only does this bill do nothing to protect veterans’ programs from these devastating cuts over the next decade, it also immediately rescinds \$2 billion in funding to support veterans—putting veterans’ health and wellbeing at immediate risk by delaying access to health care and benefits they have earned. Clawing back this funding would leave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) underfunded by \$2 billion, putting veterans’ healthcare in jeopardy ” [House Committee on Appropriations, [5/9/23](#)]

... and programs like Meals on Wheels.

April 2023: Duarte Voted For Suspending The Debt Limit Through March 2024 Or Until \$1.5 Trillion Has Been Reached And Capping Federal Spending For FY 2024 At 2022 Levels With A Capped 1% Per Year Growth. In April 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all

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- **Cutting Federal Spending By 22% Was Expected To Take Away Nutrition Services Such As Meals On Wheels.** “A 22 percent cut would take away nutrition services, such as Meals on Wheels, from more than 1 million seniors. For many of these seniors, these programs provide the only healthy meal they receive on any given day.” [The White House, [4/20/23](#)]

He even opposed legislation capping the price of insulin for local seniors at thirty-five dollars a month.

Duarte Said He Would Not Have Voted In Support Of The Inflation Reduction Act. “Q: ‘Would you have voted in support of President Joe Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act?’ A: ‘No. President Biden and Nancy Pelosi’s new law did nothing to fight inflation — and, according to most economists, this law will cause everyday items to get even more expensive. As your congressman, I’ll vote to stop the federal binge spending that is causing inflation. I’ll make sure our farms have water so food is affordable. I’ll suspend the gas tax so gas is cheaper. I’ll vote to ease unfair rules and fees on new housing so that people can afford to buy or rent in our community. I’ll vote for a middle-class tax cut. People shouldn’t have to pick between buying food, gas or filling their prescriptions.’” [Sacramento Bee, [10/12/22](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Capped The Cost Of Insulin To \$35 Per Month. “The Inflation Reduction Act caps out-of-pocket spending at \$35 per month’s supply of each insulin product covered under Medicare. These provisions are making insulin more affordable for many people covered by Medicare.” [Department of Health and Human Services, [8/16/23](#)]

Message #4

- *Born and raised in Merced, Adam Gray was raised working in his family's dairy supply and feed store.*
- *In the State Legislature, Adam Gray championed bipartisan commonsense solutions. He also founded the California Problem Solvers Caucus which brings Democrats, Republicans, and independents together to address California’s most critical issues.*
- *Protecting our seniors is a priority for Adam Gray. In Congress, he will staunchly oppose any cuts to Social Security and Medicare, protecting the benefits our seniors have worked their entire lives to earn.*

- *Adam Gray made prescription drugs more affordable through legislation to allow California to make their own life saving drugs at lower prices rather than being beholden to Big Pharma. He also supported a law to prevent price gouging by drug companies.*
- *To address the Valley's historic shortage of doctors, Adam Gray secured more than \$200 million to establish a joint medical school at UC Merced and UCSF-Fresno. In Congress he will continue to fight to ensure everyone has access to high quality, affordable healthcare.*
- *Adam Gray understands the difficulties inflation has caused for working families. He led efforts to suspend the state gas tax and has consistently fought against rising costs.*

Born and raised in Merced, Adam Gray was raised working in his family's dairy supply and feed store.

Gray Was Born And Raised In Merced And Worked In His Family's Dairy Supply And Feed Store. “Born and raised in Merced, Adam Gray was raised working in his family's dairy supply and feed store. When the Great Recession hit his hometown hard, Adam chose to step up and be part of the solution. He ran and was elected to the State Assembly in 2012 where he represented Merced County and Stanislaus County for a decade. In the State Legislature, Adam championed bipartisan commonsense solutions. He was elected by his colleagues to lead the New Democratic Caucus. He also founded the California Problem Solvers Caucus which brings Democrats, Republicans, and independents together to address California's most critical issues including homelessness, the pandemic, and drought.” [Adam Gray for Congress, Meet Adam, accessed [9/16/24](#)]

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2017: Gray Helped Found The Problem Solvers Caucus. “Adam Gray is seated inside Maria's Mexican Kitchen, with its river-rock facade and 7-Up billboard outside that looks as though it's been there since the place was called Sinaloa Cafe — a name by which Merced's old guard still refer to it, even though it's been Maria's for decades. [...] ‘This campaign is going to be an opportunity for voters to simply look at our records,’ said Gray, who in 2017 helped found the Problem Solvers caucus in Sacramento. ‘I've got a record; now John's got a record. He didn't have a record when he ran in '22, right? Now he does. So, voters get a chance to look at the 10 years of service that I provided in the state legislature. And I'm proud of that record.’” [Turlock Journal, [2/24/24](#)]

The California Problem Solvers Caucus Was A Bipartisan Caucus Which Attempted To Put Policy Over Politics. “Every other week, the 21 members of the Problem Solvers Caucus gather for lunch to hear presentations on different policies. This session, they're focusing on clean energy and homelessness — issues they say impact every legislative district in California. Inspired by a similar group in Congress, the caucus is an experiment — made up of both Democrats and Republicans, Assemblymembers and state senators — with the goal of creating a ‘neutral space’ that puts policy before politics.” [CalMatters, [4/25/23](#)]

Protecting our seniors is a priority for Adam Gray. In Congress, he will staunchly oppose any cuts to Social Security and Medicare, protecting the benefits our seniors have worked their entire lives to earn.

2021: In A Letter To The Editor, A Modesto Resident Thanked Adam Gray For Getting Their Son's Social Security Benefits Approved. “Adam Gray got it done My son has been struggling for months to receive his Social Security benefits. I reached out to Assemblyman Adam Gray for help. After a week, my son was finally approved for his benefits and the matter has been straightened out. Thank you, Adam Gray, for your help. Billie Simms, Modesto” [Modesto Bee, 2/7/21]

2024: A Californian Said She Supported Gray Because He “Has Plans To Expand Services For Seniors, Including Better Medicare Coverage And More Support For Home Care.” “Eleanor Davis, 73, a retired nurse

in Gustine, supports Gray. ‘Healthcare is very important to me, and I believe Gray’s policies will help improve access and affordability for everyone. As someone who worked in healthcare for many years, I know how crucial it is to have proper funding and support for our hospitals and clinics. Duarte’s focus seems to be elsewhere, and while I appreciate his work in other areas, Gray’s commitment to healthcare is what matters most to me.’ Davis also highlighted Gray’s stance on senior services. ‘Gray has plans to expand services for seniors, including better Medicare coverage and more support for home care. At my age, these issues are very personal and critical.’” [Westside Connect, [8/15/24](#)]

Adam Gray made prescription drugs more affordable with legislation to allow California to make their own lifesaving drugs at lower prices rather than being beholden to Big Pharma.

In August 2022, Gray Voted For SB 838, A Bill Related To Prescription Drugs. According to the California State Legislature, SB 838 “Existing law, the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, requires the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) to enter into partnerships, in consultation with other state departments as necessary to, among other things, increase patient access to affordable drugs. Existing law requires CHHSA to enter into such partnerships to produce or distribute at least one form of insulin, if a viable pathway for manufacturing a more affordable form of insulin exists at a price that results in savings. Existing law, for the purposes of implementing the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, until December 31, 2027, permits CHHSA and its departments to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts on a bid or negotiated basis. This bill would require CHHSA to establish metrics to measure progress and efficiency, and remedies in the case those metrics are not met, and include those metrics and remedies in any contract entered into pursuant to these provisions. The bill would eliminate the viability requirement for the manufacturing of insulin pursuant to these provisions and would require any partnership, among other things, to consider guaranteeing priority access to insulin supply for the state. This bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the development of a California-based manufacturing facility for insulin with the intent of creating high-skill, high-paying jobs within the state.” [California State Legislature, SB838, [8/29/22](#)]

According To Health Access California, SB 838 Would Allow The State To Lower Prices Of Generic Drugs Such As Insulin By Operationalizing California’s Manufacturing Of These Drugs. “Prescription Drugs: SB 838 (Pan) Operationalizes California’s effort to manufacture generic drugs and insulin, including biosimilars, so that the State can lower drug prices by contracting with manufacturers.” [Health Access California, 2022 Legislative Scorecard, accessed [8/27/24](#)]

He also supported a law to prevent price gouging by drug companies.

September 2017: Gray Voted For SB 17, Which Attempted To Promote Transparency In Pharmaceutical Pricing. In September 2017, Gray voted for the passage of SB 17. According to the University of California Law Scholarship Repository, “The California Drug Transparency Bill (SB-17), passed in October 2017, seeks to promote transparency in pharmaceutical pricing, enhance understanding about pharmaceutical pricing trends, and assist in managing pharmaceutical costs. This chapter examines the legal and regulatory aspects of SB-17, compares it to other state efforts to address rising drug prices, discusses how legal and political hurdles constrain the ability of states to pass significant legislation to rein in drug prices, and offers additional information relevant to California’s efforts to control drug pricing.” [California State Legislature, SB 17, Votes, [9/11/17](#); The Judges’ Book via University of California Hastings Law Scholarship Repository, [2019](#)]

SB 17 Required Manufacturers To Notify Purchasers 60 Days Before Any Price Increase Which Exceeded 16%. “Disclosures by Pharmaceutical Manufacturers. SB-17 requires manufacturers to notify purchasers 60 days before any price increase that exceeds 16% over a two-year period for all drugs with a wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) greater than \$40.9 The WAC is a national price charged by the manufacturer to wholesalers. In addition, manufacturers must notify the California Offices of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) about any new pharmaceutical with a WAC above the threshold WAC of a specialty drug under Medicare Part D (over \$670 per month). Manufacturers must also provide OSHPD with information on the factors used to determine the WAC, usage, and marketing materials. Overall, these provisions will provide policymakers with information that already exists in the public domain but that might otherwise be difficult to collect and aggregate. The real value of

these provisions, however, lies in their ability to help shape the scope of state legal boundaries surrounding drug pricing reform.” [The Judges’ Book via University of California Hastings Law Scholarship Repository, [2019](#)]

To address the Valley’s historic shortage of doctors...

HEADLINE: “To Address Physician Shortage, Central Valley Program Looks To Grow Its Own.”

[University of California, [7/12/22](#)]

The San Joaquin Valley Had The Lowest Number Of Doctors, Nurses And Nurse Practitioners Per 100,000 People Of Any Region In California. “Now, as a student in UC San Francisco’s San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (SJV PRIME), Mora is training to be part of a new crop of homegrown physicians bringing care to one of the most medically-underserved regions of the state. The program is looking to recruit medical students who want to return home to serve the area where they grew up — providing much-needed care to families in the region. Among the fastest growing, poorest and least healthy regions of California, the San Joaquin Valley also has the lowest number of doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners per 100,000 people of any region in California. An added concern: Roughly 30 percent of this already stretched workforce is nearing the age of retirement.”

[University of California, [7/12/22](#)]

Adam Gray secured more than \$200 million to establish a joint medical school at UC Merced and UCSF-Fresno. In Congress he will continue to fight to ensure everyone has access to high quality, affordable healthcare

2019: Adam Gray Passed Legislation To Allocate \$200 Million For The Creation Of A Medical School At UC Merced. Gov. “Gavin Newsom visited the campus of UC Merced on Monday, throwing his support behind an effort to build a \$210 million medical education building on the campus. [...] Usually, expensive new buildings like the proposed medical education program at UC Merced are paid for through a bond. By state law, there is a cap on how much money can be bonded for building at University of California campuses. Two years ago, Gray passed budget language that took \$200 million in funding out from under the UC bond cap.”

- **The UC Merced Medical Program Would Work In Partnership With UCSF In Fresno.** “The announcement Monday by Newsom is the most significant backing by a governor to support UC Merced's quest for a medical school — a goal that's been on the wish list for Valley leaders since the early years of the university, which opened in 2005. Newsom highlighted the importance of educating medical students in Merced County and the Valley. ‘They will come here in the Valley and they will stay in the Valley. They will contribute and they will serve the residents and the people that made their education possible,’ Newsom said. ‘That's exactly what we are promoting here today. That's the promise and it's a promise we can deliver.’ Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, and Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, explained the UC Merced program will work as a ‘distributive model’ in partnership with UCSF in Fresno.” [Merced Sun-Star via The Union Democrat, [10/26/21](#)]

Adam Gray understands the difficulties inflation has caused for working families. He led efforts to suspend the state gas tax and has consistently fought against rising costs.

February 2022: Gray Sponsored AB 2457 Which Would Enact A Year-Long Gas Tax Freeze. On February 17th, 2022, Gray sponsored AB 2457, the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law: suspension of tax. According to California State Legislature, AB 2457 “would suspend the imposition of the tax on motor vehicle fuels for one year. The bill would require that all savings realized based on the suspension of the motor vehicle fuels tax by a person other than an end consumer, as defined, be passed on to the end consumer, and would make the violation of this requirement an unfair business practice, in violation of unfair competition laws, as provided. The bill would require a seller of motor vehicle fuels to provide a receipt to a purchaser that indicates the amount of tax that would have otherwise applied to the transaction.” [California State Legislature, AB 2457, introduced [2/17/22](#)]

Gray Voted For SB 1276 Which Would Require Hospitals To Take Family Income And Living Expenses Into Consideration With Negotiating Payment Plans With Patients. On August 11th, 2014, Gray voted for SB 1276. According to the California State Legislature, SB 1276 “would instead require a hospital to negotiate with a patient regarding a payment plan, taking into consideration the patient’s family income and essential living expenses. This bill would require the hospital to use a specified formula to create a reasonable payment plan, as defined, if the hospital and the patient cannot agree to a payment plan. This bill would change the definition of a person with high medical costs to include those persons who do receive a discounted rate from the hospital as a result of 3rd-party coverage. This bill would also require an emergency physician or his or her assignee to use a specified formula to calculate a reasonable payment formula when a patient is attempting to qualify for eligibility under the emergency physician’s discount payment policy. This bill would authorize an emergency physician or his or her assignee to rely on the determination of family income and essential living expenses made by the hospital at which emergency care was provided for purposes of calculating the reasonable payment formula, and would authorize an emergency physician or his or her assignee, at his or her discretion, to accept self-attestation of family income and essential living expenses by a patient or a patient’s legal representative.” [California State Legislature, [SB 1276, 8/11/14](#)]

According To The Western Center On Law And Poverty, SB 1276 Would Combat Instances Where Californians Are Stuck With Expensive Medical Bills They Cannot Afford To Pay. “According to the Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP), the sponsor of this bill, advocates from around the state report that their clients can incur high charges, particularly for hospital visits, stays, and services delivered in the emergency room and that patients are unable to pay or negotiate plans that leave them with enough income to survive. In 2006, California took the important step to establish baselines that provided charity or discounted care for patients earning up to 350% of the FPL. These provisions have meant huge fiscal relief for many low-income Californians, but there are still circumstances where patients are left with high bills they simply cannot afford to pay. Consumers Union states in support states that this bill provides valuable protection from the full financial burden of huge and potentially unexpected medical costs.” [California State Legislature, SB 1276, Senate Floor Analysis, [8/12/14](#)]

Message #5

- *John Duarte went to Washington and forgot about the people he was elected to serve.*
- *John Duarte has bowed down to the extreme fringes of his party: he claims he’s a “moderate” but his voting record shows support for extreme views and leaders.*
- *John Duarte supported legislation that would cut services and programs for our seniors, including cuts to Social Security services and Meals on Wheels. He opposed legislation capping the price of the life-saving medicine Insulin at 35 dollars per month.*
- *John Duarte voted to remove \$2 billion in funding for veterans, putting the healthcare of those who served our country at risk with longer wait times and less access to services.*
- *John Duarte supported legislation that would have increased housing costs for veterans and put them at greater risk of homelessness.*
- *John Duarte helped pass legislation that would punish doctors who perform abortions and prevent vulnerable communities from seeking essential health care.*

John Duarte went to Washington and forgot about the people he was elected to serve. John Duarte has bowed down to the extreme fringes of his party: he claims he’s a “moderate” but his voting record shows support for extreme views and leaders.

Duarte Said He Was “Not That Far” From Colleagues In The Freedom Caucus On Fiscal Issues. “Rep. John Duarte, R-Modesto, one of California’s most vulnerable congressional Republicans — he won his seat by fewer than 600 votes last year — caused a stir Tuesday when he told Punchbowl News that on fiscal policy he’s ‘not that far from a lot of’ his colleagues in the House Freedom Caucus. That’s the chamber’s most-conservative bloc, whose members tend to back former President Donald Trump. It includes Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan and Matt Gaetz among others. [...] ‘Shrinking the size of our bloated federal agencies, lowering taxes on working families and small businesses, and unleashing American industry are the fiscal policy backbone which I share with members from all factions and all sides of the Republican party,’ he said.” [Sacramento Bee, [6/28/23](#)]

Duarte Voted Bob Good 76% Of The Time. [Pro Publica, Compare Votes, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

Head to Head: Compare Voting Records

Compare the voting records of Robert Good and John Duarte in 2023-24.



Robert Good ▾

Republican · [View profile](#)

Represents Virginia's 5th Congressional District. This was his 2nd term in the House. He is a current member of Congress.



John Duarte ▾

Republican · [View profile](#)

Represents California's 13th Congressional District. This was his 1st term in the House. He is a current member of Congress.

Robert Good and John Duarte are from the same party and have agreed on 76 percent of votes in the 118th Congress (2023-24).

[Pro Publica, Compare Votes, accessed [7/9/24](#)]

- **Bob Good Was The Chair Of The House Freedom Caucus.** “Last night, the House Freedom Caucus chose Congressman Bob Good (VA-05) to be its next chairman, to succeed Chairman Scott Perry (PA-10), starting in January 2024. Rep. Good has been a strong and vocal member of the Freedom Caucus since taking office in 2021, serving on the group’s Board of Directors as Whip and championing the positions and messages of the caucus.” [Congressman Bob Good, Press Release, [12/12/23](#)]

John Duarte supported legislation that would cut services and programs for our seniors, including cuts to Social Security services and Meals on Wheels. He opposed legislation capping the price of the life-saving medicine Insulin at 35 dollars per month.

April 2023: Duarte Voted For Suspending The Debt Limit Through March 2024 Or Until \$1.5 Trillion Has Been Reached And Capping Federal Spending For FY 2024 At 2022 Levels With A Capped 1% Per Year Growth. In April 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would suspend the statutory limit on federal debt through March 31, 2024, or until an additional \$1.5 trillion has been borrowed — whichever occurs

first. It would also include a range of provisions to limit federal spending, as well as the text of a previously passed energy and permitting policy package. The bill would set base discretionary spending limits through fiscal 2033, capping spending for fiscal 2024 at the fiscal 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion — a reduction from current spending levels — and raising the cap by 1 percent annually through fiscal 2033. It would also include similar annual cap adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

- **The Republican Debt Limit Deal Would Worsen Social Security Wait Times.** “Today, the White House released 51 fact sheets highlighting the devastating impacts of the Default on America Act on states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the Default on America Act would have devastating impacts on the American people. It would: [...] Worsen Social Security and Medicare Assistance Wait Times for Seniors. Under the House Republicans’ Default on America Act, people applying for disability benefits would have to wait at least two months longer for a decision. With fewer staff available, seniors would also be forced to endure longer wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare, and as many as 240 Social Security field offices could be forced to close or shorten the hours they are open to the public.” [White House, [5/2/23](#)]
- **The Republican Legislation Would Cut \$2 Billion For Veteran Healthcare.** “Not only does this bill do nothing to protect veterans’ programs from these devastating cuts over the next decade, it also immediately rescinds \$2 billion in funding to support veterans—putting veterans’ health and wellbeing at immediate risk by delaying access to health care and benefits they have earned. Clawing back this funding would leave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) underfunded by \$2 billion, putting veterans’ healthcare in jeopardy” [House Committee on Appropriations, [5/9/23](#)]

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adjustments for specified programs, including for wildfire suppression, disability reviews and redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and disaster reemployment services and eligibility assessments. The bill would rescind unobligated amounts from various funds provided by the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package (PL 117-169) for COVID-19 relief, IRS enforcement, and certain climate- and infrastructure-focused initiatives, as well as all unobligated funding from the March 2021 coronavirus relief reconciliation package (PL 117-2) and earlier coronavirus response laws. The bill would expand or establish work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries aged 19 to 55 and raise from 49 to 55 the oldest age at which existing work requirements would apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries. It would also modify various work standards for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including to update the baseline for calculating certain state workforce participation standards and require states to collect certain data related to work outcomes for TANF participants. To limit regulatory spending, the bill would nullify pending executive actions suspending student loan payments and prohibit the Education Department from implementing any substantially similar actions without congressional approval. It would also establish a process to require congressional approval of all “major” federal rules that would have an annual impact of at least \$100 million, cause a major increase in prices, or cause significant adverse effects to economic competitiveness. Among energy- and climate-focused provisions, the bill would repeal, phase out or narrow a variety of climate-focused tax credits under the fiscal 2022 reconciliation package, including repealing new credits for solar and wind projects, sustainable aviation fuel and clean fuel production. It would also include the full text of the House-passed energy and permitting package (HR 1) that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and certain critical minerals and accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, while reversing or repealing certain presidential actions taken and laws enacted during the Biden administration related to energy policy and climate change.” The bill passed by a vote of 217-215. [H.R. 2811, [Vote #199](#), 4/26/23; CQ, [4/26/23](#)]

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Office Of Management And Budget: The Debt Limit Bill Would Enact Cuts Which Would Eliminate Funding For Housing Choice Vouchers For As Many As 65,000 Veterans, Putting Them At Greater Risk Of Homelessness. “Even if House Republicans don’t make cuts to veterans’ programs at VA, cuts in other bills would still negatively impact veterans who access critical services across the federal government. Specifically, these proposed cuts would: • Cut Housing for Veterans: Every veteran deserves a good, safe home in this country they fought to defend. A 30 percent cut would eliminate funding for Housing Choice Vouchers for as many as 65,000 veterans, putting them at greater risk of homelessness.” [Office of Management and Budget, [5/16/23](#)]

John Duarte helped pass legislation that would punish doctors who perform abortions and prevent vulnerable communities from seeking essential health care.

Duarte Voted For The Born Alive-Survivors Protection Act To Require Health Care Practitioners To Provide Medical Care To Children “Born Alive” After An Abortion Or Attempted Abortion. In January 2023, Duarte voted for: “Passage of the bill that would require health care practitioners to provide the same care to a child that is ‘born alive’ after an abortion or attempted abortion as they would for a child born at the same gestational age and to ensure the child is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital; require hospital and clinic practitioners and employees to report any knowledge of failures to provide such care; and impose criminal fines and penalties for failures to meet these requirements. It would state that a child born alive under these conditions is a legal person under U.S. law, entitled to the protections of U.S. law, and it would specifically make any act that kills or attempts to kill such a child punishable as murder or attempted murder. The bill would also prohibit the prosecution of the mother of a child born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion and permit such mothers to seek relief through civil action against any person who violates the bill’s requirements, including monetary and punitive damages.” The bill passed by a vote of 220-210. [H.R. 26, [Vote #29](#), 1/11/23; CQ, [1/11/23](#)]

- **The Born Alive Bill Would Punish Doctors For Providing Care To Patients.** “The offensively named ‘born-alive’ legislation is another cruel and misguided attempt to interfere with evidence-based medical decision making between patients and their physicians...Laws that ban or criminalize evidence-based care and rely on medically unsupported theories and misinformation are dangerous to families and their clinicians. This bill negatively affects all obstetric and gynecologic care.” [The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [6/26/23](#)]
- **Pro-Choice Advocates Said That The Bill Was “Deliberately Misleading And Offensive To Pregnant People.”** ““This bill is deliberately misleading and offensive to pregnant people and the doctors and nurses who provide their care. It is yet another attempt by anti-abortion politicians to spread misinformation as a means to their warped political end: to ban safe and legal abortion,’ Jacqueline Ayers, the senior vice president of policy, organizing, and campaigns at Planned Parenthood Federation of America said in a statement about the bill.” [ABC News, [1/12/23](#)]
- **Born Alive Legislation Would Take Away Power Over Medical Interventions From Families And Physicians.** ““The 2002 Born-Alive Infants Protection Act gives absolutely every protection that you would ever want or need for an infant who was born at any stage of development. In that situation, you want parents to be able to decide what the care for their child looks like,’ said Dr. Lauren Wilson, a hospital pediatrician and the president of the Montana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics....Live births after an attempted

abortion are exceedingly rare, and the proposed measure would take away power over medical interventions from families and physicians.” [19th, [1/6/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Passes Bill That Could Subject Some Abortion Doctors to Prosecution.”** [New York Times, [1/11/23](#)]