The greater Los Angeles region is a significant force that is a driver in the nation’s economic growth. A national leader in both job creation and innovation, the region represents the 15th largest economy in the world.

ACCESS Washington, D.C. is a bipartisan delegation of business and civic leaders who have come together to create a bolder future, not only for our region, but for the entire nation. In areas ranging from trade and transportation, to health care, immigration and education, we know that through collaborating with national leaders, Congress and the Trump Administration, we can help create a long-term plan for economic growth and success that will benefit the entire country.
SUPPORT ROBUST TRADE AGREEMENTS AND MINIMIZE BURdensome tariffs

Trade, and the accompanying logistics industry, is a major economic driver in Southern California, with about $400 billion in commercial exchange between the Los Angeles region and the world. We urge Congress to adopt the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to facilitate the continuation of the $3.5 billion daily the U.S. does in trade with Canada and Mexico, supporting 14 million American jobs. A failure to adopt and continue the legacy of NAFTA would be a major economic hit, while this proposal maintains and grows our North American partnerships.

We support the suspension of aluminum and steel tariffs, which exposes a significant amount of cargo at ports of entry to higher costs and retaliatory tariffs. At the Port of Los Angeles, the total impact of the tariffs would cover $48 billion of trade value, 12.7 million metric tons and 1.6 million container units. Economists believe these tariffs will cost the U.S. around 400,000 jobs.

ENSURE THAT AMERICA HAS THE WORKERS TO DRIVE Economic GROWTH

Congress must act on comprehensive immigration reform. L.A. County is home to 3.5 million immigrants, and the business community understands how immigrants are inextricably tied to this country’s social fabric and economic success. With unemployment at historic lows, and immigrants adding billions of dollars to our gross domestic product and tax revenue, we need immigration policies that pave the way toward citizenship, encourage diversity in thought and talent, and ensure businesses have the workforce needed to compete in a 21st century global economy. This delegation supports:

• Comprehensive immigration reform that provides a permanent legislative solution that includes safeguarding work permits, keeps families together, protections from deportations and a pathway to citizenship, combined with smarter border security utilizing technology and a more comprehensive border strategy.
• Enacting protections for DREAMers and preserving the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and Temporary Protected Status to eligible individuals. Support HR 6.
• Provisions to expand the availability of H-1B visas to retain highly skilled workers, relief from the H-2B cap for seasonal workers, and guest worker provisions with a reliable verification system to help employers meet the law.

REAUTHORIZE U.S. EXPORT IMPORT BANK (EX-IM)

For more than 80 years, the Ex-Im Bank has been a major driver of exports. The current authorization expires on Sept. 30, 2019 and a long-term authorization is needed, otherwise the Bank will be unable to support thousands of small business exporters. Even more imminent is the need to re-establish a quorum of the Bank, which consists of confirming at least three members of the Board of Directors. Due to the lack of quorum, the Bank has been unable to provide financing for deals more than $10 million. An additional backlog of approximately $40 billion in deals exists that would support almost 240,000 jobs.

CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FOSTER A STRONG TOURISM INDUSTRY

The U.S. travel industry generates $2.4 trillion in economic output, supports 15.6 million American jobs and generates a $77 billion trade surplus for the U.S. To ensure the health and stability of this industry, Congress should:

• Ensure Brand USA’s funding is secure by reauthorizing the Travel Promotion Act (22 U.S.C. 213) beyond 2020. Established by the bipartisan Travel Promotion Act in 2010, and reauthorized in 2014, Brand USA is the public-private partnership responsible for prompting the U.S. as a travel destination and communicating official visa and entry policies to international leisure and business travelers.
• Rename, expand and reform the VISA Waiver Program to better reflect the program’s security benefits, improve our relationships with trusted allies and ensure an efficient, accessible process to obtaining a waiver. In 2017 alone, 23 million travelers arrived through the WVP (58 percent of overseas visitors), generating $190 billion in economic output and supporting nearly one million jobs.
SUPPORT POLICIES THAT ENSURE A FAIR, COMPREHENSIVE 2020 CENSUS COUNT

It is critical that the 2020 Census be conducted as comprehensively and accurately as possible to effectively allocate billions of dollars in federal, state and local funding. Local and state officials rely upon Census data to show where new schools, roads, and other public facilities should be built, just as businesses look to the Census to help them determine where the necessary workforce or consumer base exists to support production and sales facilities. Our nation’s future prosperity is shaped in part by the accuracy of the data collected by the Census Bureau on the nation’s population, and on its racial, ethnic and national origin groups. Specifically, the LA business community supports the following:

• Legislation requiring the Census Department to develop questions in the census that accurately and fully reflect a portrait of all those living in our nation, regardless of citizenship status.
• Fully funding the Census in the appropriations process to ensure sufficient funding for outreach and other activities to ensure an accurate, unbiased and inclusive count.

PRESERVE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS, SENIORS AND YOUTH

Since July 2017, L.A. City and County have coordinated efforts to combat the homeless crisis and have committed more than $1.1 billion from voter-approved measures thus far for permanent supportive housing, homelessness services and prevention strategies. It is crucial for the federal government to continue programs that have proven successful in helping our most vulnerable communities. We urge Congress to support:

• The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH): This council coordinates the efforts of 19 federal agencies in preventing and ending homelessness. Currently operating by a year to year reauthorization, legislation is needed to permanently authorize USICH with dedicated funding from the budget. Without this council, the efforts to end homelessness and collaboration between federal agencies will decline in quality, urgency, and consistency.
• Homeless Assistance Grants: The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program (HUD) awards grants throughout the country to provide housing and services to the community on a local level. Many local programs tackling homelessness are dependent on this grant for their work on the ground.
• Affordable Housing: To support affordable housing for low-income households, $22.4 billion is needed in FY 2019 to maintain rental assistance and public housing programs, such as Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project Based Rental Assistance (previously known as Project Based Section 8), and Public Housing accounts, and provide for new vouchers to reduce Americans falling into homelessness.

The longest shutdown in our nation’s history had destabilizing impacts to the homeless community and those on the verge. We now need to recover from the following consequences:

• Rental Assistance Contracts: 748 rental assistance contracts expired, affecting about 27,200 low-income households. Five hundred more contracts were set to expire in January and another 550 contracts in February.
• Section 8 Project-Based Assistance: 221 contracts that need to be renewed, impacting 12,000 low-income households. Two-thirds of these households are elderly or people living with disabilities.
• Section 202 Housing for the Elderly: Serving 400,000 older adults with incomes of $13,300 or less, 272 of these contracts expired.
• Section 811 Housing for People with Disabilities: 242 contracts from Section 811 expired.
TRANSPORTATION & GOODS
MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION

While the 2015 FAST Act helped to address rapidly aging infrastructure, our transportation system requires more investment and long-term funding certainty. Our region is prepared to leverage federal dollars with state and local funds from California’s recently passed gas tax and fee increase and L.A. County’s Measure M financing measures.

• Support development of a long-range transportation authorization bill to improve transportation infrastructure
  o Provide direct funding to state and local governments, including:
    ▶ Full Funding Grant Agreements for Metro’s Purple Line Extension Section 3
    ▶ Funding for the region’s commuter rail system to support the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE)
    ▶ Fully fund regional DOT INFRA Grants:
      o America’s Global Gateway: Southern California Multimodal Freight Network Project and congestion mitigation management tools
      o State Route 57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Project
      o Regional ExpressLane Accelerator: I-105 HOT Lanes
    ▶ Maintain federally-committed funding for California High Speed Rail Project
  o Promote development of transportation technologies and congestion mitigation management tools
  o Funding and financing tools to leverage public/private partnerships for regional and national significant projects, such as:
    ▶ Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants
    ▶ Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Improvement Act (TIFIA)
• Reestablish the federal government’s leading role in guiding and incentivizing transportation investment. Metro released its 2019 Rebuilding America agenda that outlines steps the federal government should take to support transportation investments nationwide. We support the following proposals:
  o Enhanced certainty with longer-term surface transportation authorization legislation, up to two decades in longevity
  o Smart federal tax incentives, including advancing the America Fast Forward Transportation Bond as a tax policy
  o Expanding and reforming Projects of Regional and National Significance (PRNS), first by restoring the PRNS program, and including mechanisms to ensure urban and rural areas are treated fairly by the program
  o Boosting workforce development, including a federal workforce development program to ensure the transportation sector has the skilled workforce it needs

INVESTMENT IN LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Continue modernizing the second busiest airport in the U.S. by providing federal support for access and terminal improvements, including an Automated People Mover system that would reduce traffic congestion and air emissions by connecting passengers to our regional light rail system, a Consolidated Rent-a-Car Facility, and Intermodal Transportation Facilities. To meet a 2028 Summer Olympic timeline, L.A. will be looking to the DOT and its agencies to support and expedite approvals for LAX’s $14 billion capital improvement program.
FUNDING FOR LOGISTICS PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FREIGHT STRATEGIC PLAN

Our federal partners should reassert themselves to play a strong role in supporting the nation’s goods movement system. Any future package should ensure increased funding for multimodal freight infrastructure. Priorities include:

• Increased funding and enhanced accessibility to existing programs to help ports modernize and accommodate even larger container vessels through land-side and water-side terminal improvements, development of on-dock rail, and projects that enhance terminal efficiency.

• Ensure eligibility and prioritization of digital infrastructure as a cost-effective means of delivering freight capacity in the nation’s maritime gateways.

• Support comprehensive Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) reform that supports the competitiveness of the nation’s maritime gateways through full use of annual HMT revenues while providing for an equitable return of funds to ports that have been high net contributors to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

• Support development of regional goods movement infrastructure to reduce congestion and impacts on local communities, including air pollution and vehicle miles traveled, such as America’s Global Freight Gateway: Southern California Multimodal Freight Network Project.

• Support investments in freight corridors that benefit passenger rail services.

• Support streamlining the environmental review and permitting process to accelerate project approvals, without sacrificing environmental protections.

• Support deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure, including chargers, in major freight corridors.

• Support continued development of a National Freight Strategic Plan that recognizes the multimodal national freight network and supports efforts to enhance maritime competitiveness and reduce congestion at the nation’s major gateways and corridors. This should also entail the identification of critical transportation projects within these key gateways/corridors.

• Support balanced freight rail regulations and modernize approach to operational regulations to enable incorporation of innovative technologies to increase efficiency of rail network.

• Promote development of zero-emission or near-zero emission equipment and vehicles, transportation technologies, and congestion mitigation management tools.

• Removal of cap on funding for multimodal projects in both the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) i.e. State apportioned formula program and INFRA discretionary programs.
DEVELOP POLICIES THAT CREATE A SECURE, REGULATED CANNABIS INDUSTRY

- Protect State’s rights to exercise regulatory rights – More than 30 states in the U.S. have legalized the sale and consumption of cannabis as of the 2018 midterm elections and 46 states have laws decriminalizing cannabis or cannabis-based products. Legal uncertainty in these states was created when the Department of Justice’s guidance document was withdrawn, severely limiting regulatory mechanisms and creating a health and safety crisis. This delegation supports the passing of any legislation that protects the ability of states to regulate the cannabis industry.

- Promote fair and consistent tax policies - As regulatory framework for the cannabis industry is developed, it is critical to amend basic business tax policies to include this new industry. The industry should be allowed to operate as any other business industry would in terms of their payroll, business tax deductions, etc. This delegation strongly urges Congress to amend existing business tax codes to allow the legalized cannabis industry to have the same benefits as any other business.

- Create safe banking regulations for the cannabis industry - Currently, federally insured banks are struggling to navigate the regulations in place surrounding the Cannabis industry. Any bank that provides service to a legal cannabis business faces potential federal prosecution. We must adopt safe regulations that amend existing policies and create opportunities for the banking industry to accept business relationships with the cannabis industry.
The U.S. spends more than $3 trillion dollars a year on health care, and the industry accounts for one-sixth of the U.S. economy. With the repeal of the individual mandate component of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2017 and uncertainty leading to a drop in enrollment at the end of 2018, the stakes are enormous— not only for the more than 20 million Americans who gained insurance through the ACA, but for the health practitioners, administrators, insurers, researchers and facilitators working to improve the health and quality of life in our communities every day. As such, this delegation continues our advocacy for business-friendly health care policies that protect access to coverage and quality care, create health professional workforce opportunities, and generally improve the health of all individuals and businesses.

**PROTECT ACCESS TO COVERAGE AND QUALITY CARE**

- Maintain 340B Drug Pricing Program levels – Created to provide safety-net hospitals financial relief from high prescription drug costs, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing to reduce payments for certain drugs purchased under the 340B program. California’s 169 participating hospitals would lose $170 million in funding, having a devastating impact on patients served at these hospitals and in the surrounding communities.

- Protect Medicaid – Medicaid enrollment in California grows every year, with one in three Californians now on Medicaid. Potential proposals to alter the financing structure could result in significant funding losses to the region and state.

- Secure CHC Funding – Community Health Centers (CHCs) are non-profit entities that provide primary care, dental, behavioral health and pharmacy services. In L.A. County, CHCs operate more than 350 sites and serve 1.5 million patients annually. Congress should renew support for the Health Centers Program.

- Support the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 – With an aging workforce and population, our existing Physician shortage will be multiplied in the near future. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 aims to bring 15,000 new Medicare-supported GME training positions by 2025 to hospitals. Our delegation strongly supports this legislation and others that aim to bridge the gap of the physician shortages we are facing.

**IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES**

- Prioritize Protecting Small Businesses – Taxes, such as the Health Insurance Tax (HIT), will have a large impact on employers and force them into unwanted decisions about how they operate their companies and care for their employees. As health care reform funding discussions continue, we urge Congress to prioritize protecting smaller employers against harmful and unfair taxes like the HIT.

- Develop Strategies to Address Behavioral Health Needs – From overcrowding and expensive treatment in our jails to providing adequate care for the urban homeless population, addressing behavioral health is a growing need in major metropolitan areas across the U.S. We support funding for behavioral health assistance, and the passage of legislation and regulatory solutions that advance the provision of integrated health care sectors.

- Preserve Funding for Biomedical Research – Funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has played a significant role in developing life-saving disease treatments, funding options for emerging companies and bioscience jobs. This delegation opposes NIH funding cuts, and encourages Congress to support the great work being done at California’s NIH-dependent non-profit educational institutions and research hospitals.

- Support Children and Mixed Status Families – In L.A. County, there is an estimated 520,146 children who live in mixed status families. Highly publicized restrictions toward undocumented individuals are having the unanticipated consequence of families not applying for public health benefits and other services to which they are entitled. Safeguards should be maintained that provide families with protections where health and public services are provided.

- Stabilize individual market – Policies stabilizing the ACA market will help protect individuals purchasing coverage on their own. We must consider policies that bring certainty to the market and lower costs for individuals, such as sustainable reinsurance funding and reliable cost-sharing reduction subsidies.
ENERGY SECURITY, RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Reliable and affordable energy is critical to economic competitiveness. The best way to ensure we maximize domestic energy supply and minimize energy costs for families and businesses is to support market-based, fuel neutral programs. We support policies and programs that take into account economic and technological realities as we move to further reduce emissions in the most cost effective manner possible. Priorities include:

- Market-based and fuel neutral programs with emission reduction targets that do not create costly new mandates or disproportionately burden or target certain sectors over others.
- Renewable Fuel Standards that are practical and consider the limits of vehicle fleet, fuel demands, service station infrastructure, advanced biofuel technology development and biofuel production.
- Extension of Alternative Fuels Tax Credit and the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit.

MODERNIZE OUR ENERGY SYSTEM

Emerging and existing technologies are reshaping our nation's energy profile and our aging infrastructure is increasingly at-risk as our demand for energy increases. Modernization of our energy infrastructure is critical to reaching growing demand. As energy sources expand, power will continue to come from multiple sources and flow in multiple directions. A secure, interactive grid will help us to adapt to changing technology, address energy reliability issues, increase customer choice and move forward with smart cities. It will enable integration of new technologies that facilitate safe, efficient, reliable and affordable energy delivery. Priorities include:

- Support for increased resiliency and security for energy infrastructure to facilitate:
  - Integration of diverse and distributed energy resources, including renewable resources
  - Increased system/grid reliability to enhance resilience, response and recovery efforts
  - Resources to secure our critical information infrastructure and improve cybersecurity capabilities
  - Improved cyber-security through policies and programs that facilitate and improve coordination capabilities, tools and technologies between the government and critical infrastructure sectors

COORDINATE EFFORTS ON WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND PREVENTION

California continues to suffer from catastrophic wildfires throughout the state, with eight of the 20 most destructive occurring in the last two years. Victims of the recent Camp and Woolsey fires claimed more than $11.4 billion in insurance losses in November 2018. Given the tremendous economic impact of these losses, the business community thanks the federal government for working with our state leadership on our request for major natural disaster declarations. The funds made available through the declaration to the Paradise, CA area, and L.A. and Ventura counties is critical to rebuilding our communities and businesses affected by these disasters. Our delegation supports working with the federal government on funding strategies for fire suppression efforts. Priorities include:

- Increased funding for vegetation and forest management
- Improved emergency response
- Increased collaboration between federal and state partners on forest management and resiliency planning

- Support for technology and policies that decrease greenhouse gas emissions, including:
  - Improving capture of biogas, use of biomethane, and green hydrogen production to increase availability of renewable resources and decrease greenhouse gas emissions
  - Complementary efforts to the transportation sector’s fleet transition to address greenhouse gas emissions, including system electrification

- Support research and development funding for advanced fuel storage technology including:
  - Battery storage
  - Power to gas
  - Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS)
SUSTAINABLE, SECURE WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

SUPPORT CALIFORNIA WATERFIX AND ECORESTORE

About 30 percent of Southern California’s water supply comes from Northern California, passing through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on its way to the State Water Project pumping plants in the south Delta. The current water system is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, and sea level rise. Existing operations have contributed to a decline in native fish populations and environmental damage. For more than a decade, state and federal water and wildlife agencies have been working on plans to modernize the State Water Project and restore the Delta’s ecosystem. California WaterFix and California EcoRestore represent a strategic action plan that will achieve the state’s co-equal goals of a more reliable water supply and improved Delta ecosystem. As a supporter of WaterFix, the L.A. business community will continue to advocate for and support the Newsom Administration’s actions to implement the project. This delegation supports administrative, legislative and funding actions that ensure more reliable long-term water delivery for the State Water Project, including the implementation of California WaterFix and California EcoRestore.

FUND OROVILLE DAM REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Oroville Dam captures water that is then diverted downstream as part of the State Water Project, providing water to 25 million Californians and farmlands. Oroville’s main spillway suffered damage during the 2017 rain season. The subsequent use of an emergency spillway created erosion concerns that prompted an evacuation of communities downstream. The main spillway was successfully reconstructed in 2018, but work on the emergency spillway will continue in 2019. This delegation supports Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for emergency response and repairs at Oroville.

IMPLEMENT WATER CONSERVATION TAX PARITY

Water conservation rebates provided by public utilities or governments are not currently exempt from federal taxes. Water conservation tax parity would extend the tax exemption that currently exists for energy conservation devices to include water conservation and stormwater management devices as well. This delegation supports a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates to encourage additional water savings.

ENHANCE LONG-TERM RELIABILITY FOR CALIFORNIA

Water supply reliability and the development of local supplies are high priorities for Californians. This delegation supports actions to implement measures that improve California’s water reliability and drought preparedness, including:

- Implementing and funding California drought provisions in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.
- Advancing additional surface and groundwater storage statewide, including Sites Reservoir.
- Securing federal assistance for local water resource development, including programs to reclaim and reuse wastewater, study and cleanup groundwater, capture and treat stormwater, and to help consumers make efficient water choices.
- Promoting a range of cost-effective federal financing options for water infrastructure projects, including maintaining State Revolving Funds, expanding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and similar loan programs offered at U.S. Treasury rates, and protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The L.A. business community is a strong supporter of improved alignment of the full education pipeline from early childhood to K-12, to postsecondary, and the workforce. This cradle-to-career approach will ensure the development of a 21st century workforce capable of competing in a global economy.

SUPPORT CHILDREN AND MIXED STATUS FAMILIES AT ALL EDUCATIONAL STAGES

In L.A. County, there are an estimated 520,146 children who live in mixed status families. The highly publicized restrictions toward undocumented individuals is having the unanticipated consequence of having families not send their children to child care centers or school. The County is also home to 180,000 DACA-eligible immigrant youth, many of whom are enrolled at local colleges and universities. The L.A. business community urges the Administration to:

• Maintain safeguards that provide families with a higher level of protections in or near educational institutions and government buildings where public services are provided.
• Pass the federal DREAM Act to ensure young, undocumented immigrants who want to contribute to our economy — including those who were previously screened for and granted DACA status — have a means to legal employment and a path to citizenship.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The L.A. business community will be looking to build on recent early learning support by working with the 116th Congress to elevate last year’s policy wins and investments. 2018-19 investments, such as the doubling for Child Care and Development Block Grant, provided California with $253 million to increase access to child care for low-income children, which is estimated to help 11,000 low income families access affordable child care spaces. Despite these significant investments and California’s strong economy, we are still home to an estimated 450,000 children living in deep poverty.

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS IN THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Increase investments in key early childhood programs to ensure they are sufficiently funded to accomplish the goals and activities authorized by law.

• Head Start/Early Head Start – Support funding to increase access to quality, affordable early care and education programs. As the primary federal program for low-income infants, toddlers and preschoolers, Head Start reduces inequalities in developmental outcomes and raises educational attainment levels. We also encourage members of the California delegation to work together to seek a waiver to the current income eligibility requirement of the Federal Poverty Level to one more aligned with economic realities for families in California.
• Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – There are approximately 2 million children from birth through age 12 who are eligible for child care in California. A significant increase in funding is necessary to effectively implement the law and provide additional support to meet the need of California’s working families who cannot afford quality child care and early learning opportunities for their children.
• Preschool Development Grants Birth Through Five – California is a recipient of the grant and strongly supports an additional three years of funding to fully implement its efforts to improving birth to five learning and care systems in order to set up more children, especially those from low-income families, to succeed in elementary school and beyond.
• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Parts B and C – Incentivize states to provide for a seamless transition from the very first stages of a child’s development into early education and then elementary school. Expand the capability for states and communities to ensure all children with disabilities, ages three through five, have access to preschool.

Legislative and Authorizations:

• Support the Child Care for Working Families Act to help ensure that all working families have access to high quality early learning and care.
• Reauthorize Higher Education Act (HEA): Given the overwhelming evidence showing a teacher’s education and training is crucial to the quality of an early childhood education classroom, reauthorization of HEA presents an opportunity to positively impact child outcomes by strengthening the early childhood education workforce.
Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) – The tax code should be strengthened to provide relief for working families struggling with the cost of child care, particularly those of modest means. Therefore:

- Increase the value of the CDCTC, which has largely remained stagnant while the cost of care to families continues to rise
- Make the CDCTC refundable so that low and middle income working parents are able to receive it

FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION THROUGH IDEA

Every child with a disability is entitled to a free, appropriate public education that prepares them for further education, employment and independent living. Ensuring children with disabilities have access to high-quality, specially designed instruction, supports, services and interventions is critical to success, yet the federal government has had to provide the financial support necessary to support our children and the resources it promised under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA. The need to provide appropriate services to children with disabilities has been highlighted by the 2017 Endrew Supreme Court decision. When the IDEA was passed, it was expected that the federal government would pay 40 percent of the extra cost of special education. The reality is that funding has never even reached near this level. Accordingly, we urge Congress to support full funding of IDEA.

REBUILD AMERICA’S SCHOOLS

Support the Rebuild America's Schools Act to invest $100 billion to address critical physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools. Among other provisions, this bill would create a $70 billion grant program and $30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff. It is estimated this bill will create more than 1.9 million jobs. We urge Congress to include this program in any infrastructure package that may be considered.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT BENEFITS K-12

There are a number of cross-cutting issues in the Higher Education Act (HEA) that impact K-12 education. As Congress considers reauthorizing the HEA, we urge Congress to strengthen provisions in Title II, the Teacher Quality Partnership Grants, to better support educator preparation programs. Congress must also preserve and protect the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which helps individuals pursue careers in public service, such as teachers, social workers and nurses, by forgiving student loan debt after 10 years of qualifying repayments.

HIGHER EDUCATION

REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) provided the bold vision and aggressive federal investment needed to dramatically extend higher education opportunity to millions of Americans, providing a viable path to upward socioeconomic mobility and fueling the growth of our economy. Today, more than 50 years since the first signing of the HEA and 11 years since its last reauthorization in 2008, we are again in need of a bold vision for higher education. We need a vision that recognizes the diverse needs of this next generation of students and that creates multiple on-ramps to college and to the workforce of tomorrow. As the 116th Congress considers proposals for reauthorization, we urge Congress to:

- Sustain investments in GEAR-UP and TRIO, which support low-income and first-generation college students in preparing for and persisting through college.
- Create new grant programs to provide targeted support for foster and homeless youth, as proposed in the Aim Higher Act (115th Congress: S.2138 and H.R.6543).
- Incentivize institutions to adopt innovative practices that better meet the needs of adult learners and create efficient pathways to completion, such as the Reverse Transfer Efficiency Act (115th Congress: S.3066 and H.R.3774) and the CREATE Graduates Act (115th Congress: S.2986).
- Develop innovative partnerships among colleges, workforce development systems and employers to help students prepare for jobs in in-demand industries, as proposed in the EARNs Act (S. 3802) and the Gateway to Careers Act (115th Congress: S.2407).
MODERNIZE FINANCIAL PROGRAMS

While our federal student aid programs have helped preserve college affordability for generations, there remain significant gaps that make it difficult for too many students and families to access a college degree. As such, we urge Congress and the Administration to:

- Simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), reducing the number and complexity of questions and making the form available in multiple languages.
- Increase the Pell Grant maximum award and index to inflation in order to preserve the purchasing power of Pell.
- Renew the Second Chance Pell Pilot program and extend federal student aid for DREAMers.
- Streamline the income-based student loan repayment process and preserve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

PRESERVE CRITICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Our delegation supports investments in federal research that enable our universities to drive knowledge production for the benefit of our entire community. We call on Congress to increase spending caps for non-defense discretionary programs to enable federal research agencies like the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to continue to partner with local higher education institutions on research initiatives.

IMPROVE DATA REPORTING AND EXCHANGES

In order to spur student-centered innovations, Congress can modernize federal data reporting requirements to collect more relevant data. We support efforts like the College Transparency Act (115th Congress: S.1121 and H.R.2434), which would make available information that enables consumers and policymakers to determine which postsecondary programs provide the best return on investment. We also support amending the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to enable institutions to more efficiently share student records and data when doing so would be in the educational interest of the student.

INVEST IN AMERICA’S GREATEST ASSET - ITS WORKERS

As the state and region begins to reap the benefits of a full-employment economy, businesses must do more to attract and retain talent. Middle-skill jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of California’s labor market. Key industries in California are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs. It is imperative that our education and training programs keep pace with the fast-developing technologies, innovations, and the unpredictable economic realities that business and industry adapt to on a daily basis. To this end, we can, and must, pursue flexible and adaptive education, training and workforce development strategies that reflect the scale and nature of emergent industry and labor demand changes. To meet these demands, we must:

- Increase funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) workforce and adult education, and career technical education grants to at least FY2020 authorized levels.
- Pass the JOBS Act so that America’s workers can use federal Pell Grants to earn short-term credentials sought by local employers.
- Pass the Gateway to Careers Act to establish a “career pathways” fund to support the success of today’s college students.
- Pass the Community College to Career Fund to support industry-community college partnerships.
- Pass the PARTNERS Act to support local business-led partnerships critical to expanding opportunities to more businesses and workers.
## MONDAY, MARCH 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional: US Holocaust Museum Briefing and VIP Exhibit Tour</td>
<td>100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>ACCESS D.C. Opening Dinner with Southern California Congressional Delegation</td>
<td>Willard InterContinental Crystal Room 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8 - 9 a.m. | Delegation Breakfast  
Keynote: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Isaac Dovere, Staff Writer, The Atlantic | Willard InterContinental  
Willard Room 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW |
| 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Team Meetings/Briefings | Capitol Hill |
| 5:30 - 7 p.m. | All-delegation reception at the Mexican Cultural Institute, Embassy of Mexico  
Featuring Ambassador Martha Bárcena | Mexican Cultural Institute  2829 16th St. NW, Washington, DC |

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9 - 10:15 a.m. | Delegation Breakfast  
Political Affairs Panel:  
Jonathan Capehart, Washington Post  
Karen Finney, Political consultant | Willard InterContinental  
Crystal Room 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW |
| 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. | Delegation Photo | Willard InterContinental  
1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW |
| 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Team Meetings | Capitol Hill |
| 4 - 6 p.m. | Delegation Closing Reception | Willard InterContinental  
1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW |
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Cadiz
Cedars-Sinai Health System
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Port of Los Angeles
Siemens
Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility
UCBA
United Airlines
Valero

GOLD

AT&T
BNSF Railway Company
Charter Communications
Child360
First 5 California
Los Angeles World Airports
Oportun
The Boeing Co.
WSP USA

SILVER

Cadiz
Cedars-Sinai Health System
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Port of Los Angeles
Siemens
Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility
UCBA
United Airlines
Valero

BRONZE

ACCESS Washington, D.C. is a collaboration of these partnering organizations:

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Central City Association
City of Los Angeles
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
L.A. Metro
Los Angeles Business Council
Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County Business Federation
Los Angeles Unified School District
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mobility 21
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Lead Staff:
Jessica Duboff
Vice President of Public Policy,
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Special thank you to the following for their invaluable assistance in planning this year’s meetings:

Eve O'Toole, Holland & Knight LLP
Leslie Pollner, Holland & Knight LLP
The Raben Group
Charles Small, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

For more information on ACCESS Washington, D.C., contact Jessica Duboff, 213.580.7585 or jduboff@lachamber.com.