



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL



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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce believes in “A Thriving Region for All.” We design and advance opportunities and solutions for a thriving regional economy that is inclusive and globally competitive.

COVID-19 has led to a technological revolution, in a matter of weeks, transitioning millions of people all around the world to become completely reliant on technology to engage in professional or personal interactions. This transition also heightened the digital divide that exists as kids must engage in home schooling. It also highlights the lack of access when it comes to tools, like computers and access to the internet and hotspots.

In this post COVID-19 landscape, the Innovation & Technology Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies and programs that foster innovation and creativity, make L.A. a more desirable place for technology companies and entrepreneurs to locate and grow their businesses, increase the supply of technically skilled workers and entrepreneurs and lead to a more transparent, accessible and efficient government. The Council also supports providing access and the tools to close the digital divide and enhance digital literacy among students, workers and business owners.

Modernization our use of technology

In response to COVID-19, the Chamber supports policies that enhance telecommuting. The policy Council also supports policies that modernize workforce policies like the definition of the work week and the work day to reflect the current environment. The council will also support policies that seek to increase digital literacy among students, employees and business owners. Businesses will not survive if they do not have an online presence. The council supports policies and programs that provide technical assistance and training for businesses.

Support comprehensive immigration reform to build a skilled workforce

The Chamber supports comprehensive immigration reform with focus on the needs of the technology industry. Sensible and comprehensive immigration reform is needed in order to drive our booming technology industry with new entrepreneurs and secure a globally competitive workforce. Congress should establish a streamlined process for admitting future workers and entrepreneurs, including an increase in the number of H1-B visas, the creation of a new STEM green card category, and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented residents.

Increase government open data and transparency

Government data can revolutionize many industries and stimulate entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions and services. The Chamber supports greater government transparency and information sharing with the public to unlock the potential for imaginative and data-driven outcomes by public and private entities. We look forward to providing the business community with expertise and input on best uses and education for the entrepreneurial community. The Chamber also supports an open internet and ensuring equal access to the internet, understanding that much innovation and commerce flow through this platform. These types of innovation and data sharing policies are critical as we transition to an economic recovery.

Increase targeted investments in high-growth industries

With 900 service sites across the country, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide key touch points for small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain mentorship and assistance in growing their companies. Congress should increase targeted investments of federal resources toward SBDCs that focus on advising companies in high-growth industries.



Bolster STEAM education efforts in public schools and colleges

As the information economy grows, it will need a steady supply of diverse, technically skilled and educated employees to infuse companies with their creativity and talent. To increase the supply and quality of L.A.'s talent pool, Bixel Exchange at the Chamber supports industry-based skills education expansion, continuing education and career pathways development that harness the expertise of science and technology leaders. The Chamber connects students directly to the region's growing tech community and employers through private and public partnerships that provide critical skills training for future employees and nurture the next generation of tech leaders.

Foster greater certainty for innovators

Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to focus on building their products and companies rather than face frequent intimidation from extortion attempts and other threats to their livelihood. The Chamber supports patent reform policies that establishes a proper framework for patent disputes. For certainty in business practices, companies should be able to comply with government data collection needs while balancing their right to protect sensitive and proprietary consumer data. The Chamber advocates for clear policies and guidelines for data gathering that allow companies to safeguard consumer data information.



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