September 26, 2018

Honorable Monica Garcia
President
Los Angeles Unified School Board
333 South Beaudry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Mr. Alex Caputo-Pearl
President
United Teachers Los Angeles
3303 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

To the Los Angeles Unified School Board and the United Teachers of Los Angeles Executive Officers:

As the organized, grassroots voice of the business community in greater Los Angeles, BizFed works to support the public institutions that serve our community and the families that work to build our region’s economy. BizFed represents 390,000 businesses that employ nearly 4 million people throughout Los Angeles County. The majority of these employees are working to support their families, many of which include children in your charge. These children will also become the workforce that will grow our economy in to the future. It is important that the needs of students are placed first in your negotiations.

Employers care deeply for the strength and effectiveness of our K-12 educational systems. BizFed is aware of the labor negotiations occurring between the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA). We are concerned about the protracted timing and escalation of these negotiations and the impact on all students and their parents, many of whom are our employees and customers.

BizFed urges LAUSD and UTLA to do everything you can to avoid a strike. A strike will harm, among other things, our members’ employees and their children. When schools are closed due to strikes, parents must take days off from work, students miss learning opportunities, and our region is disrupted. Beyond hurting families, this strike will hurt our businesses and their ability to sustain and create new jobs.

As business leaders, we know the importance of treating labor fairly while maintaining fiscal solvency. We urge you to find a resolution that accomplishes both. This balance has been achieved between the district and its other unions and we urge all of you to take the same path to find a sensible, fiscally responsible middle ground.
We understand that our schools need more resources and support from the state. Please do not exacerbate the problem by cutting off the current stream of per-pupil state funding each day the strike occurs.

As part of the community seeking ways to support public education, we are ready to stand with you. As the leaders of our district and its educators, we encourage you to avoid public fights, come to a resolution, and work with the larger community to improve our city’s education system for all.

Thank you for considering our concerns. If our community of business leaders can be helpful, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Hilary Norton
BizFed Chair
Fixing Angelenos
Stuck in Traffic (F.A.S.T)

David Fleming
BizFed Founding Chair
IMPOWER, Inc.

Tracy Hernandez
BizFed Founding CEO

CC:
LAUSD Board Members
UTLA Executive Officers