January 8, 2019

Los Angeles Unified School District
Superintendent Austin Beutner
333 S Beaudry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017

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

As business and community leaders in Los Angeles, we understand first-hand the value of great schools - and the role our teachers play in creating them. We understand the frustration that our teachers feel, and we also understand Los Angeles Unified's very real financial challenges. We also understand that a strike would do nothing to increase much-needed funding for our public schools.

We feel strongly that our region cannot withstand the disruption that a teacher's strike of any length would bring. Children rely on Los Angeles Unified schools for meals, safety, and, of course, critically needed education. In addition to our hard-working teachers, Los Angeles Unified schools employ thousands of support staff who would be impacted by a strike. In short, a strike would be deeply detrimental to teachers, families, workers, and communities across Los Angeles.

We urge negotiations to continue towards a resolution that is fair to our hard working teachers, and allows Los Angeles Unified to remain fiscally solvent. The fact-finding panel report released in December 2018 points the way towards a workable solution for all parties. We implore you to spend as much time as needed working together to reach an agreement.

We need to move beyond this standoff to focus on what's truly important: getting our students what they need and deserve. As business leaders, we focus on solutions. We stand ready to work with you to advocate for increased educational funding from Sacramento and Washington. We believe we need to work together to engage our communities in long term solutions rather than putting them through the trauma of a strike.

Yours,

Maria S. Salinas
President & CEO
L.A. Chamber

Stuart Waldman
President
VICA

Tracy Hernandez
Founding CEO
BizFed

Jessica Lall
President & CEO
CCA Los Angeles