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March 29, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

I write to express South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) support for a fiscal year 2023 federal appropriation to California State University, Dominguez Hills' (CSUDH). Funding for major equipment and technology investments would advance the study of science and technology, business, and broadcast media, benefitting residents of the South Bay and South Los Angeles.

California State University, Dominguez Hills, draws talent from across the region and puts a college education within reach of lower-income residents. A full 70.7% of students' parents have had little or no college – the highest percentage in the entire CSU system. The “land of opportunity” is truly the 346 acres of CSUDH's campus for nearly 17,000 students. They find a wonderful setting for learning, with the landmark masterpieces of architect A. Quincy Jones and two new structures, the Science and Innovation Building and the Innovation and Instruction building, home to the College of Business.

As students graduate, they could put their knowledge and skills to work right here in the economic and research powerhouse that is the South Bay. From aerospace and energy, to biotechnology and media production, the region has a wealth of opportunities as it continues on its growth trajectory – with the right foundational training, of course.

The newest buildings lack some of the advanced scientific instrumentation, information technology, and media equipment that are found in private and public universities throughout the state. The time is now to make these critical investments so that CSUDH students will be prepared for the workplace of the present...and future.

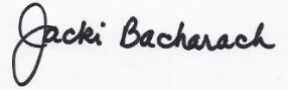
Fundamentally, it is a question of social justice. Nearly 94% of students identify as people of color, and CSUDH is first among California's public universities in awarding undergraduate degrees to African Americans. As communities in SBCCOG critical industries develop workforces that are more representative of our communities' rich ethnic and racial makeup, diverse students must have competitive educations to advance this collective aim.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

In short, the SBCCOG supports CSUDH's request for this appropriation and expects that you will see its merit. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jacki@southbaycities.org if I may be of further assistance as you make the case for our region and this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacki Bacharach". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Jacki Bacharach
Executive Director
South Bay Cities Council of Governments