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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**LOLA SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS**  
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1  
ON EDUCATION  
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
JOINT RULES  
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
AND RETIREMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER  
RULES

October 24, 2023

Provost Andrew Guzman  
3551 Trousdale Parkway, Suite 102  
Los Angeles CA 90089

Dear Provost Guzman,

As the Senator representing communities neighboring the University of Southern California, I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Graduate Student of USC as they negotiate their first contract. Here in Los Angeles and across the State of California, unions play a critical role in empowering workers to collectively bargain for better working conditions and fairer compensation.

Unions, like the Graduate Student Workers Organizing Committee (GSWOC-UAW), are a driving force behind fair working conditions and equitable compensation. I deeply value their mission, which seeks to ensure that higher education remains accessible to all and that USC becomes a place where Graduate Student Workers can not only work but thrive.

Throughout the negotiation process, I urge both parties to reach a fair agreement on issues, such as union security and the vital protections against harassment and discrimination. Graduate Student Workers have shared troubling stories of workplace discrimination and harassment at USC, and it's imperative that they have a strong union to enforce their rights.

It is my firm belief that reaching a fair contract is in the mutual interest of both USC administration and USC Graduate Student Workers as well as the broader community. As these negotiations progress, my office will be closely monitoring the situation, eagerly anticipating the ratification of the first GSWOC-UAW contract this fall.

I stand ready to assist and support this important cause in any way possible. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for both the Graduate Student Workers and the entire Los Angeles community. Please do not hesitate to contact Omer Sohail at (323) 291-0311 if you wish to engage in a more in-depth discussion regarding this matter.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lola Smallwood-Cuevas".

Lola Smallwood-Cuevas  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District, California State Senate