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November 22, 2023

Provost Andrew Guzman  
University of Southern California  
3551 Trousdale Parkway, Suite 102  
Los Angeles CA 90089

**RE: USC GRADUATE STUDENT WORKER UNION**

Dear Provost Guzman,

I am writing to express my support for USC's Graduate Student Workers as they bargain their first union contract. Here in Los Angeles and across the State of California, we know the critical role that unions play in empowering workers to collectively bargain for better working conditions and fairer compensation. These values inform our actions as elected officials, and I see it as an extension of my values to voice proud support for GSWOC-UAW's campaign for a fair contract.

GSWOC-UAW's mission is one that I care deeply about: creating a stronger and more prosperous Los Angeles. They are fighting for a brighter future for graduate labor, where higher education is an accessible place for all. Above all, they want a stronger USC, where Graduate Student Workers can live and thrive in LA as everyone deserves to be able to do.

I hope that, over the course of contract negotiations, you will be able to reach a fair agreement on union security, as well as arbitrable protections from harassment and discrimination. Graduate Student Workers have shared with us their experiences of workplace discrimination and harassment at USC. These workers deserve a strong union and the ability to enforce the rights they win in their first union contract, and I expect USC to be a high-road, good-faith employer that supports its employees' decision to form a union with a union shop and have arbitrable protections from workplace abuse.

I believe it is in the mutual interest of USC administration, USC Graduate Student Workers, and the City of Los Angeles for USC administration to negotiate a fair contract as soon as possible. My office is closely monitoring the progress of negotiations, and I look forward to celebrating the ratification of the first GSWOC-UAW contract this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick C. Zbur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "R" and a long, sweeping "Z".

RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR  
Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair  
Assemblymember, Fifty-First District