

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: SUPPORT for Rep. Correa's Vaccine Request for Counties

Dear President Biden:

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, strongly supports Congressman Lou Correa's request to the administration asking for vaccines and funding provided directly to counties and for federal protocols that require states to equitably and efficiently distribute resources to counties.

Orange County is the sixth largest county in the nation and the third largest in California. The county's 3.2 million residents are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Due to the region's many dense neighborhoods, Orange County is among the most impacted nationally in testing positivity and mortality from COVID-19. County health officials are hard at work delivering vaccines to residents through two vaccination super sites, including one of the first and largest in the nation at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim; and with enough supplies intent to vaccinate a majority of the County's population by July 4th.

Orange County's economy depends on Disneyland Resort and other renowned destinations for jobs. Disneyland was the largest single site employer in California prior to the pandemic. Many smaller businesses also depend on travel and tourism to survive. The job losses resulting from business closures skyrocketed unemployment to unprecedented, double-digit levels, impacting communities of color most. Even as California's overall economy starts to rebound, in December alone Orange County's unemployment rose an entire percentage point. That month 8,000 total jobs were added but a crippling 14,000 jobs were lost in the leisure and hospitality sector alone, demonstrating how acutely the pandemic's effects are felt in Orange County. It is crucial that Orange County is able to vaccinate more residents so that the economy can reopen and tens of thousands of jobs and livelihoods are restored.

Thank you for your leadership throughout the pandemic. OCBC looks forward to working with you to ensure Orange County's vaccination program is as effective and equitable as possible.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs

cc: Orange County Congressional Delegation