



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS

CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

January 21, 2021



The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Congratulations on your presidency – your vision for an America United is one that we in Los Angeles County share. We feel incredibly fortunate to have you as our new President. The days are already full of so much more hope for our better future ahead.

My reason for writing to you today is one of great importance and urgency. Los Angeles County does not have enough doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The County has been absolutely devastated by the coronavirus, with estimates stating that one in three Angelenos have been infected since the pandemic began, and several hundred people dying each day. The COVID-19 vaccine is the only way we will start to rebuild the overwhelming economic and personal losses felt by so many in Los Angeles County, and have rapidly and carefully stood up six mega-vaccine sites along with hundreds of smaller sites.

Since December 14, 2020, when we got our first shipment, we have received 853,650 doses. However, we have over 10 million residents. 1.4 million of which are residents over 65 years old, and over 700,000 are eligible healthcare workers. We do not have enough doses to give each of these people their first dose, let alone the two required for impactful immunity and protection.

I know and wholeheartedly support that a related priority for your administration is addressing racial disparities. Communities of color have been disproportionately impacted throughout Los Angeles County since this pandemic began. The daily COVID-19 case rate for Latinx people has been two to four times that of White residents. Hospitalizations show a similar trend: Latinx residents are hospitalized at two to three times the rate of White and Asian residents, and they die at three times the rate of White residents.

Having enough vaccine doses is my top priority and I applaud the decision to direct FEMA to launch federally-supported community vaccination centers, and I would respectfully urge you to consider Los Angeles County as a willing and important partner. These vaccination centers should indeed be placed in the hardest-hit communities first.

I realize that this is a crisis felt by many localities right now. However, Los Angeles County has been one of the epicenters. We are densely populated, diverse, and made up of many essential workers. They cannot stay home, but instead must risk their lives and the lives of their families to go to work. I want to protect these brave individuals, but we cannot do so without adequate vaccine supplies. Your concern for essential workers is clear in your statements and your American Rescue Plan. Please help us realize a safe county for our essential workers by prioritizing Los Angeles County in vaccine allocation.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you to end this pandemic once and for all. Please contact me or my office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District
Chair, Board of Supervisor