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**BUSINESS LEADERS SUPPORT ACTION
AMID RISE IN ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS**

LOS ANGELES (November 1, 2022) – The Los Angeles County Business Federation “BizFed” denounces bigotry in all forms and offers its force-multiplying support to the Governor’s Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education. The nine experts and advocates appointed to serve on the council will empower more Californians to recognize and root out the dangerous hate speech that results in violent extremism.

Antisemitic sentiments expressed recently by a controversial rapper and amplified by a banner over the 405 Freeway in Los Angeles are beyond the pale and reflect a disturbing rise in attacks against the Jewish community. In 2021, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded 2,717 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States, a 34% increase over the previous year and the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. The diverse business, civic and community leaders represented by BizFed applaud California’s nation-leading investments in anti-hate programs to combat this trend.

“We encourage the newly announced members of the Governor’s Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education to lean on BizFed’s vast network of resources and contacts to advance their vital work. BizFed leaders across all sectors and communities are prepared to step up as partners,” said BizFed Founding CEO Tracy Hernandez.

“We’re proud to see four Angelenos named to the council who represent Los Angeles-area institutions known for promoting civil and human rights, and for ensuring the lessons of the past are never forgotten. We stand with the Jewish community and are prepared to do our part to ensure that all people are free to live and prosper without fear,” said BizFed President David Englin.

COUNCIL APPOINTEES:

- Beth Kean, CEO of the Holocaust Museum LA
- Brian Fong, California Program Director for Facing History and Ourselves
- Joyce Newstat, Former Chair of the Jewish Family and Children’s Services Holocaust Center
- Kori Street, Deputy Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation
- Liebe Geft, Director of the Museum of Tolerance
- Michael Berenbaum, Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute, Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University
- Roxanne Makasdjian, Executive Director of the Genocide Education Project
- Seth Brysk, Central Pacific Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League
- Taylor Pennewell, Executive Director of the Redbud Resource Group

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About Los Angeles County Business Federation “BizFed”

BizFed is a massive grassroots alliance that advocates for policies and projects that strengthen the regional economy. Leveraging power in numbers, BizFed explores all sides of critical issues and takes timely action to spur business growth, job creation, and economic vitality across diverse sectors and communities throughout Southern California. BizFed is proud to speak for **230 diverse business organizations** representing **410,000 employers** with **5 million employees** throughout Southern California.