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September 14, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Full Funding of the Transgender, Gender-Expansive, and Intersex (TGI) Wellness and Equity (WE) Initiative

Honorable Members of the City Council

The Los Angeles City Health Commission wishes to express our support for the full realization of the **TGI WE** Initiative. First, we want to applaud and recognize the historic first step the City Council took to establish a **$500,000.00** funding line through the budget memorandum introduced by Councilmembers Heather Hutt and Eunisses Hernandez; however, this initial allocation falls short of what is needed to protect and sustain vulnerable communities. We strongly support fully funding The TransLatin@ Coalition's (TLC) TGI WE initiative **to its original $4 million baseline** and having the administration of these funds come out of the **Community Investments Department**.

As an advisory body tasked with evaluating the health, safety, and equity of all residents in Los Angeles, we view the TGI WE Initiative not merely as a budget line item but as a critical public health intervention. TGI Angelenos face disproportionate rates of discrimination, systemic exclusion, and violence – factors that directly drive severe disparities in mental health, substance use, chronic illness, and life expectancy. Historically, the TGI-led grassroots organizations on the frontlines providing life-saving healthcare linkages and human services have been severely under-resourced compared to other municipal non-profits.

To ensure transparent, efficient, and equitable deployment of these resources, we strongly recommend that this initiative be implemented intentionally and mindfully through the **Community Investments Department to ensure community-based organizations work with a department that is experienced in administrating community programs**. This department possesses the unique structural competency, programmatic oversight, and equity-focused framework required to manage specialized community grants, ensuring accountability and maximizing direct community impact.

Incremental progress is insufficient when vulnerable lives are at stake. We must honor the dedicated community advocacy that built this policy campaign by matching it with the actual financial commitment it demands. The Los Angeles City Health Commission urges all municipal leadership bodies, budget committees, and city stakeholders to fully

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fund the TGI WE Initiative to **$4 million** and vest its administration in the Community Investments Department.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nomsa Khalfani, Ph.D., President
Los Angeles City Health Commission

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