



### Re: Support Fair Wages to Strengthen Our Young Construction Workforce

Dear LA City Council Members,

LA CAUSA YouthBuild works with underserved young adults across Los Angeles who are determined to build stable careers in the construction industry. Through education, job training, and hands-on experience, our students are preparing to meet the growing demand for skilled residential construction workers. Yet too many of these young adults are hesitant to enter the field.

They understand the physical demands, long hours, and high skill level required for construction work. What they question is whether the wages truly reflect that effort. When entry-level and residential construction wages fail to provide economic stability in a high-cost city like Los Angeles, the message young workers take away is that the risk and strain may outweigh the reward.

At a time when Los Angeles faces both a housing shortage and a workforce shortage, we cannot afford to lose the next generation of skilled workers. Our city needs a strong, local workforce that is trained, invested in their communities, and able to afford to live where they work. If residential construction jobs do not provide fair wages and access to basic benefits, we will continue to see young talent leave the industry before they even begin. This will undermine housing production, workforce development efforts, and long-term economic stability for working families.

Our young people are ready. They are trained. They are motivated. They want careers, not temporary jobs that leave them struggling to survive.

We urge you to support policies that establish a fair minimum wage and meaningful standards for residential construction workers on qualifying projects. Raising the floor for wages sends a powerful signal that construction is a viable, respected career path and ensures that young people from traditionally underserved communities can enter and remain in the industry.

Investing in fair wages is an investment in workforce sustainability, housing stability, and economic mobility.

We ask for your leadership and support in strengthening wage standards for residential construction workers in Los Angeles.

In solidarity,

Virginia Reyes  
Executive Director  
LA CAUSA YouthBuild