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**Contact:** Robyn Ritter Simon

213.580.7532 Office

310.266.8286 Mobile

**NEWS RELEASE**

**LA AREA CHAMBER ENDORSES MEASURE B TO SAVE  
COUNTY TRAUMA CENTERS**

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Rusty Hammer and Local AFL/CIO leader Miguel Contreras together held an October 2 news conference on the stairs of the USC County Trauma Center in support of Measure B on the November Ballot.

“While business and labor do not always agree on issues, we seek to find areas where we can work together for the betterment of L.A. Trauma and emergency care is one such issue, and we are pleased to be working with labor to pass Measure B,” Hammer said.

“If trauma centers and emergency rooms close, they will close for everyone and these closures will shift the burden to private sector emergency rooms and trauma centers. Private providers will have to accommodate more patients with potentially no additional funding, resulting in increased delivery costs which will be passed along to employers and employees in the form of higher premiums,” he added.

The Chamber’s Board of Directors voted to support L.A. County Measure B, a proposed parcel tax, to provide much needed funding for trauma centers, emergency medical services, and biological/chemical terrorism response. The annual tax consists of up to three cents per square foot on structures (\$42.66 annually for an average family home of 1,400 square feet). Revenue would partially address the county’s major reductions in federal and state health care funds.

“Typically, the Chamber does not support taxes that impact the business community,” Hammer said. “However, Board members agreed with the recommendation of the Health Care Committee that the risk of closing our trauma centers and the ensuing overflow absorbed by our health care provider members would significantly impact our economy and quality of life”.

The Chamber urges the County to explore long term funding alternatives that do not target property owners since every stakeholder in the county benefits from a successful and working trauma system.

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