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SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KNABE INTRODUCE MOTION TO PROMOTE BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Supervisor Don Knabe applauded the passage of their jointly introduced motion promoting opportunities for biotechnology innovation in Los Angeles County. The County will explore the feasibility of developing a countywide public-private biotechnology partnership program that would create jobs, foster cutting-edge research and, above all, and enhance the County's public health care delivery network.

“Even during the recession, the biomedical industry enjoys steady and rapid growth that can fuel our local economy,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “If we are interested in harnessing the jobs of the future, we must seize this opportunity to both revitalize the local economy and to create centers of medical excellence throughout our health care network.”

David Meyer, President and CEO of Los Angeles BioMedical Institute called today's vote an important step toward bringing the County up to par with other regions of the state where public-private biotech research is thriving.

“Biotech has been flourishing in California for more than 20 years, and today’s action by the Board of Supervisors will help Los Angeles County access this vibrant sector of job creation while promoting innovative medical research,” Meyer said.

Biomedical research is one of the nation’s strongest growth industries. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists biomedical engineering as one of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S. for the decade ending in 2018, estimating that it will grow by 72% between 2008 and 2018. Locally, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation calls biomedicine crucial to Los Angeles County’s “new economy.”

Los Angeles County’s health infrastructure is well suited to partnerships between biomedical research firms and County health facilities. Such a model has existed for nearly 60 years between the independent nonprofit organization Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA Bio-Med) and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and the Board of Supervisors is also fostering biomedical research partnerships at LA County-USC Hospital and Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. Today’s motion calls for the County to develop a more coordinated approach, ensuring that its efforts are well coordinated and strategic.

The Board of Supervisors will be presented with a follow-up report on potential biomedical partnerships in 60 days.

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