

# Visión y Compromiso™



September 26, 2023

Evett PerezGil, President  
Board of Directors  
Desert Health Care District and Foundation

For submission during public comment, board of directors meeting, 9/26/23

Dear Ms. PerezGil, President of the Board:

As Executive Director of Visión y Compromiso and as a grantee of the Desert Health Care District (District), I am submitting this letter to express our strong support for Dr. Bárzaga as a key advocate for equity in the Coachella Valley and to share our dismay and concern that he has been removed by the Board as CEO of the District.

As you know, Visión y Compromiso has been a strong ally and partner of the District for several years. Given Dr. Bárzaga's long list of accomplishments in Riverside County and in the Coachella Valley, his termination is entirely unexpected and appears to be out of sync with and in contradiction of the District's strategic goals.

I disagree with this decision by the Board and feel compelled to make my opinion known. Recent activities by the District were moving forward in way that could have truly advanced racial, health and economic equity in the Valley. I ask that you reconsider this decision and reinstate Dr. Bárzaga as CEO. Thank you.

Please keep me updated as to your next steps.

Regards,

Maria Lemus  
Executive Director  
[maria@visionycompromiso.org](mailto:maria@visionycompromiso.org)

cc: DHCD Board Members:  
Carmina Zavala, PsyD, MA, Vice-Chair  
Carole Rogers, RN, MPH Secretary  
Arthur Shorr, Treasurer  
Kimberly Baraza, Director  
Leticia de Lara, MPA, Director  
Les Zendle, MD, Director

