



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

August 23, 2026

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
Attorney General, State of California  
1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

### **An Open Letter from the League of United Latin American Citizens in Support of Blocking the Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery Merger**

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

Since 1929, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) has defended the economic, political, and cultural rights of Latinos across the United States. On behalf of our members throughout California, and the Latino community at large, we thank you for bringing the lawsuit to block Paramount Skydance's \$110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery.<sup>1</sup>

As you recently stated, “if these two entertainment titans merge, they will be a behemoth.”<sup>2</sup> To protect the futures of Latino crew members, small businesses, storytellers, and journalists, we need structural remedies that will keep these corporate entities separate, rather than settle for empty promises that history shows companies do not keep and cannot be enforced.<sup>3</sup> We need firm commitments that will assure authentic representation of Latino and diverse communities on screen, behind the scenes, at every corporate level and facet of the business.

The current form of the consolidation would have a devastating and unacceptable impact on Latinos, including those who reside in the Los Angeles community. According to a recently-issued Los Angeles County report, the merger would put at risk “4,500 direct film and television jobs,” “2,661 indirect jobs at small businesses that support production, like prop houses, printers, transportation companies, and other vendors;” and “3,204 jobs induced from local production spending in the broader economy.”<sup>4</sup> In all, “more than 10,000 total job-years, and \$4.06 billion in

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, “Attorney General Bonta Files Lawsuit to Block \$110 Billion Warner Bros./Paramount Merger” (Jul. 13, 2026), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-files-lawsuit-block-110-billion-warner-brosparamount>

<sup>2</sup> Steven Zeitchik, “California AG Rob Bonta Says David Ellison Is ‘Desperate’ and Grasping at Straws”, *The Hollywood Reporter* (Aug. 19, 2026).

<sup>3</sup> Matt Stoller, “The Case Against Negotiating ‘Concessions’ in a Paramount-Warner Deal,” American Economic Liberties Project (Aug. 2026), <https://www.economicliberties.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/TheCaseAgainst-NegotiatingConcessions.docx-2.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://lacounty.gov/2026/08/19/la-county-releases-final-120-day-report-on-potential-economic-and-workforce-impacts-of-paramount-skydance-acquisition-of-warner-bros-discovery/>



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business output are at risk.” Because 49.3% of the population of Los Angeles County is Hispanic or Latino,<sup>5</sup> the impact would be ruinous for a community that has already suffered from significant business disruptions over the past year.<sup>6</sup>

No state has more to lose from this disastrous merger (absent true structural remedies) than California. Latinos make up roughly 40 percent of California's population and nearly half of Los Angeles, according to recent Census figures,<sup>7</sup> and our tax dollars subsidize this industry. It is already buckling. Los Angeles County lost more than 40,000 motion picture jobs between 2022 and late 2024,<sup>8</sup> while local shoot days fell from 36,792 in 2022 to 19,694 in 2025.<sup>9</sup> Latino grips, electricians, drivers, set builders, and caterers absorb those losses first and recover last. A merger engineered around \$6 billion in cuts would convert this ongoing crisis into a catastrophe for the working families we represent.

Latino families also comprise a significant portion of the film and television industry audience. Latinos, who account for 19 percent of the U.S. population, purchased 29 percent of all movie tickets sold in 2020,<sup>10</sup> and MPA data consistently show Latinos attending theaters more often per capita than any other group.<sup>11</sup> The Pew Research Center reported this year that 59 percent of Hispanic adults visited a movie theater in the past year, a higher share than white or Black adults.<sup>12</sup> Hollywood returns almost nothing for that loyalty. Latino characters filled only 5 percent of speaking roles across 1,300 top-grossing films, and nearly 44 percent of those films

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia#>

<sup>6</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/immigration-enforcement-small-businesses-los-angeles/>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census and QuickFacts: California; Los Angeles city, California, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescitycalifornia/PST045225>.

<sup>8</sup> Nate Rattner and Ben Fritz, "See How Hollywood's Job Market Is Collapsing," *The Wall Street Journal* (Apr. 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/business/media/see-how-hollywoods-job-market-is-collapsing-230be437>.

<sup>9</sup> FilmLA on-location production data, 2022–2025, reported in Nate Rattner and Ben Fritz, "See How Hollywood's Job Market Is Collapsing," *The Wall Street Journal* (Apr. 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/business/media/see-how-hollywoods-job-market-is-collapsing-230be437>.

<sup>10</sup> Motion Picture Association ticket-sales data, reported in "Latinos Are Avid Moviegoers, but They're Underrepresented On-Screen," *Axios* (Mar 31, 2022), <https://www.axios.com/2022/03/31/latinos-hollywood-representation-movies>.

<sup>11</sup> See Motion Picture Association THEME Report data, reported in "Frequent Moviegoing Slipped in 2019," *The Hollywood Reporter* (Mar. 11, 2020), <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/frequent-moviegoing-slipped-2019-tickets-sold-all-age-groups-1283950/>; and Dave McNary, "Latinos Still Have Highest Moviegoing Rate in U.S.," *Variety* (Apr. 4, 2018), <https://variety.com/2018/film/news/latino-asian-moviegoers-mpaa-study-1202743713/>.

<sup>12</sup> Pew Research Center, "As the Academy Awards Approach, a Look at Moviegoing Habits in the United States," (Mar 6, 2026), <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/03/06/as-the-academy-awards-approach-a-look-at-moviegoing-habits-in-the-united-states/>.



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featured no Latino speaking character at all.<sup>13</sup> Latino actors held just ten lead or co-lead roles among the 100 highest-grossing films of 2022, and only 76 such roles across sixteen years of top releases.<sup>14</sup> And the door is closing further: people of color lost ground in 2025 in every employment category in the industry, and Latinos are among the most underrepresented groups in every job, on screen and behind the camera.<sup>15</sup>

These and other harms are not collateral to the antitrust case. They are consequences of the diminished competition that will result. Every studio absorbed by a rival is one fewer buyer for a script, one fewer employer for a crew, and one fewer distributor willing to bet on a story its franchise slate does not need. The combined company would become the nation's largest buyer of original film and television programming, with the power to reduce output, employ fewer workers, and depress pay: for instance, Disney's purchases of rival studios cut its film output by 65 percent between 2009 and 2017, and the Disney-Fox wide-release slate has since fallen from 26 films to 14.<sup>16</sup> Independent producers lose the leverage of competing bidders and find vertically integrated studios closed to outside projects; audiences lose the choices those producers would have supplied; and Latino audiences, who already fill one speaking role in twenty, lose first.

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<sup>13</sup> USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, "Hispanic and Latino Representation in Film: Erasure On Screen & Behind the Camera Across 1,300 Popular Movies," (Sep. 2021), <https://assets.uscannenberg.org/docs/aii-hispanic-latino-rep-2021-09-13.pdf>. See also "New Study Finds That Popular Movies Continue to Marginalize Hispanic/Latinos," USC Annenberg (Sep. 15, 2021), <https://annenberg.usc.edu/news/research-and-impact/new-study-finds-popular-movies-continue-marginalize-hispaniclatinos>.

<sup>14</sup> USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, "Hispanic and Latino Representation in Film: Erasure On Screen & Behind the Camera Across 1,300 Popular Movies," (Sep. 2021), <https://assets.uscannenberg.org/docs/aii-hispanic-latino-rep-2021-09-13.pdf>. See also Angelique Jackson, "Latinos Had Only 10 Leading Roles Across 2022's Top-Grossing 100 Films," *Variety* (Oct. 9, 2023), <https://variety.com/2023/film/news/latino-representation-hollywood-usc-annenberg-inclusion-study-1235748922/>.

<sup>15</sup> UCLA Entertainment and Media Research Initiative, Hollywood Diversity Report 2026; see UCLA Newsroom (Jun. 17, 2026), <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/hollywood-diversity-report>; and UCLA Division of Social Sciences, Hollywood Diversity Report overview, <https://socialsciences.ucla.edu/departments/hollywood-diversity/>.

<sup>16</sup> See Complaint, *Writers Guild of America West and Writers Guild of America East v. Paramount Skydance and Warner Brothers Discovery*, Case 3:26-cv-07212 (N.D. Cal. Jul. 14, 2026), [https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news\\_and\\_events/public\\_policy/wga-v-paramount-warner-bros-complaint.pdf](https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/wga-v-paramount-warner-bros-complaint.pdf). See also "Fact Sheet: WGA Files Lawsuit to Block Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery Merger," (Jul. 14, 2026), <https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/the-guild/politics-public-policy/Litigation%20Press%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>; Writers Guild of America West, "The New Gatekeepers: How Disney, Amazon, and Netflix Will Take Over Media," August 2023, [https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news\\_and\\_events/public\\_policy/GatekeepersReport23.pdf](https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/GatekeepersReport23.pdf); and, Pamela McClintock, "Movie Theaters Dread Any Warner Bros. Merger," *The Hollywood Reporter*, (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/warner-bros-merger-movie-theaters-123644439/>.



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We need not only forecast about what this merger would do to the Latino community, because Warner Bros. Discovery *already* ran the experiment. After the 2022 WarnerMedia-Discovery merger, the company shelved the completed \$90 million film *Batgirl*, starring Afro-Latina actress Leslie Grace in one of the only mainstream superhero films ever led by a Latina.<sup>17</sup> It then canceled a series about a Dominican immigrant family, *Gordita Chronicles*, five weeks after its debut, despite being seventh most-watched comedy of 2022.<sup>18</sup> It then erased it from the platform entirely. Following the cancellation and deletion, the show's creator warned that consolidation contributes to "the erasure of U.S. Latinos."<sup>19</sup>

Paramount followed the same script: within months of closing its Skydance merger in August 2025, it laid off roughly 2,000 employees, about ten percent of its workforce,<sup>20</sup> just after dismantling its diversity programs earlier that year.<sup>21</sup> Members of Congress, led by Rep. Joaquin Castro, had to ask the Justice Department to reexamine the Warner deal because the harms arrived only after regulators waved it through.<sup>22</sup> Approval first, erasure second. That is the pattern, which is why we insist on full structural reforms that protect authentic and full participation of Latino and diverse communities.

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<sup>17</sup> Marina E. Franco, "Latinos Stream More Than Anyone Else but Are Rarely On Screen," *Axios* (Aug. 11, 2022), <https://www.axios.com/2022/08/11/streaming-latinos-batgirl-gordita-chronicles-canceled>; see also Winston Cho, "Why Warner Bros. Discovery's Issues Are Beyond 'Batgirl,'" *The Hollywood Reporter* (Aug. 17, 2022), <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/business/business-news/warner-bros-discovery-batgirl-antitrust-1235197626/>.

<sup>18</sup> Winston Cho, "Why Warner Bros. Discovery's Issues Are Beyond 'Batgirl,'" *The Hollywood Reporter* (Aug. 17, 2022), <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/business/business-news/warner-bros-discovery-batgirl-antitrust-1235197626>; see also Peter White, "'Tuca & Bertie' & 'Gordita Chronicles' Creators Join With WGA to Slam Warner Bros Discovery Over Cancellations," *Deadline* (Jan 30, 2023), <https://deadline.com/2023/01/tuca-bertie-gordita-chronicles-creators-slam-warner-bros-discovery-1235244600/>.

<sup>19</sup> Writers Guild of America West, "How the Warner Bros. Discovery Merger Hurts Workers and Diversity," (Dec. 2022), [https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news\\_and\\_events/public\\_policy/broken-promises-bulletin-1-23.pdf](https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/broken-promises-bulletin-1-23.pdf); see also Peter White, "'Tuca & Bertie' & 'Gordita Chronicles' Creators Join With WGA to Slam Warner Bros Discovery Over Cancellations," *Deadline* (Jan 30, 2023), <https://deadline.com/2023/01/tuca-bertie-gordita-chronicles-creators-slam-warner-bros-discovery-1235244600/>.

<sup>20</sup> Scott Nover, "Paramount Begins Laying Off 2,000 People Months After Skydance Merger," *The Washington Post* (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/10/29/paramount-skydance-layoffs/>; see also "Paramount to Lay Off 2,000 Workers Shortly After Merging with Skydance," *CBS News*, October 30, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/paramount-layoffs-merger-skydance/>.

<sup>21</sup> Russell Leung and Lillian Rizzo, "Paramount Ends DEI Policies, Cites Trump Executive Order," *CNBC* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/02/27/paramount-ends-dei-policies-cites-trump-executive-order.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Office of Rep. Joaquin Castro, "Castro, Warren, Cicilline, Jayapal Urge Department of Justice to Investigate Potentially Anticompetitive Practices at Warner Bros. Discovery," (Apr. 7, 2023), <https://castro.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/castro-warren-cicilline-jayapal-urge-department-of-justice-to-investigate-potentially-anticompetitive-practices-at-warner-bros-discovery>.



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Paramount now demands through the press that you must settle by October 1 or it will move the studio out of California.<sup>23</sup> These are desperate measures - "blackmail", as you put it,<sup>24</sup> is not negotiation. A corporation shouldn't be permitted to accomplish through threats to workers what it cannot accomplish under antitrust laws. This is why Hollywood's Teamsters have rightly condemned the use of workers' livelihoods as a bargaining chip.<sup>25</sup>

We thank you for rejecting unenforceable paper commitments: Paramount pledges 30 theatrical releases a year,<sup>26</sup> yet exhibitors remain unconvinced, as they have still not recovered from the smaller slates that followed the 2019 Disney-Fox merger.<sup>27</sup> Every assurance offered to win approval of the WarnerMedia-Discovery deal came before *Batgirl*, before *Gordita Chronicles*, before thousands of pink slips. Behavioral conditions expire or go unenforced with B-level substitutes; the market power a merger creates is permanent. The Justice Department approved this transaction in June, reportedly over the objections of career staff,<sup>28</sup> so your coalition now stands as the last line of defense. The restraining order you won<sup>29</sup> and the March 2027 trial date<sup>30</sup> gives the law room to work.

That is why we were so pleased to read your statement in advance of Monday's reported meeting between the AG's and Paramount:

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<sup>23</sup> Dominic Patten, "Teamsters Pound Paramount over WBD Merger Promises & Threats: "Stop Playing Games", "Deadline (Aug. 13, 2026), <https://deadline.com/2026/08/paramount-merger-teamsters-protest-1237033400/>.

<sup>24</sup> Noe Padilla, "'Blackmail' - Bonta unmoved by Paramount's threat to leave California," *USA Today* (Aug. 11, 2026), <https://finance.yahoo.com/media-advertising/articles/blackmail-bonta-unmoved-paramounts-threat-230325222.html>.

<sup>25</sup> Dominic Patten, "Teamsters Pound Paramount over WBD Merger Promises & Threats: "Stop Playing Games", "Deadline (Aug. 13, 2026), <https://deadline.com/2026/08/paramount-merger-teamsters-protest-1237033400/>.

<sup>26</sup> Paramount Skydance Corporation and Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc., joint merger announcement, February 27, 2026 (SEC Form 8-K, Exhibit 99.1), <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1437107/000143710726000018/exhibit991.htm>.

<sup>27</sup> Rebecca Rubin, "Movie Theater Owners Divided Over Paramount-Warner Bros Merger," *Variety* (Aug. 11, 2026), <https://variety.com/2026/film/news/movie-theater-owners-divided-paramount-warner-bros-merger-1236832354/>.

<sup>28</sup> Dave Michaels, Dana Mattioli, Sadie Gurman and Jessica Toonkel, "Justice Department Decision to Allow Paramount Deal Surprised Staff Investigators," (Jun. 15, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/business/media/justice-department-decision-to-allow-paramount-deal-surprised-staff-investigators-a18f70da>.

<sup>29</sup> California Department of Justice, "Quiet on the Set! Attorney General Bonta Secures Critical, Early Win in Lawsuit to Block Warner Bros./Paramount Merger," (July 2026), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/quiet-set-attorney-general-bonta-secures-critical-early-win-lawsuit-block-warner>.

<sup>30</sup> California Department of Justice, "Attorney General Bonta Secures Deal Halting Warner Bros./Paramount Merger Until June 2027 or Court Ruling," (Jul. 2026), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-secures-deal-halting-warner-bros-paramount-merger-until>.





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*As I've said before, generally for all of my cases, I prefer to resolve disputes in the boardroom, not the courtroom. As I've also said, if the opposing party in litigation wants to meet in good faith to make a sincere effort to resolve the case, we'll meet. And as I have further said, any potential discussions about the Paramount-Warner Brothers merger will be unproductive absent robust structural remedies on the table that address our concerns. As it stands today, the proposed Warner Bros./Paramount merger will mean higher costs, less competition, lower wages, job cuts, and fewer movies and TV shows. This merger violates long-standing federal antitrust law, and we are committed to enforcing the law.<sup>31</sup>*

The National Hispanic Media Coalition and dozens of public interest organizations have called for precisely the action you have taken.<sup>32</sup> We thank you for holding firm against limp behavioral promises that could devastate our Latino community with major job losses. LULAC stands behind you.

Respectfully,

Roman Palomares  
National President and Chairman

Juan Proaño  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California  
The Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles  
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President of the Los Angeles City Council and Councilmember, Eighth District  
The Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor, First District  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, California State Senator and Chair, California Latino Legislative Caucus  
Jacob Sandoval, LULAC National Board Member, California State Director

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<sup>31</sup> Brian Stelter (@brianstelter), August 22, 2026, <https://x.com/brianstelter/status/2091013976138150056>.

<sup>32</sup> Ted Johnson, "Coalition of Public Interest Groups Call for State Attorneys General to Challenge Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery Merger," *Deadline* (Mar. 6, 2026), <https://deadline.com/2026/03/paramount-warner-bros-state-attorneys-general-1236746176/>.