

The Michelson Center for Public Policy believes that government is the great lever of change to catalyze sustainable, scalable, and replicable solutions. And so, we leverage our passion and resources to uplift disadvantaged communities by ensuring that important topics of conversation arrive and stay at the forefront of local, state, and national policy.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MEDICAL RESEARCH

FDA Modernization Act 3.0

The Michelson Center for Public Policy supports the FDA Modernization Act 3.0. In 2022, Congress passed the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, which eliminated the FDA mandate requiring drug companies to test on animals before moving to human clinical trials. The 2022 law authorizes human-biology-based testing alternatives instead of testing on animals. However, the FDA has not updated its regulations to reflect the 2022 law. In response, lawmakers have introduced new legislation requiring the FDA to implement these new rules. This effort is another step toward reducing inhumane and largely ineffective animal testing practices while enhancing the safety and efficacy of new drugs and treatments.

Investing in the Future of Biomedical Research

The Michelson Center for Public Policy advocates for policies to expand investments in the biomedical research field. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been tremendously successful in funding innovative biomedical research and has been essential to most discoveries throughout history. Yet, as federal funding for biomedical research has declined, fewer scientists are entering the field of biomedical research. Modernizing the NIH and expanding funding opportunities for biomedical research are critical to keeping pace with advances in science and medicine and incentivizing young scientists to seek careers in research that will revolutionize scientific and medical discovery.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal Health Care Workforce

The Michelson Center for Public Policy supports public-private partnerships with veterinarians and veterinary technicians in local communities to expand access to animal health care. These programs provide underserved communities with greater access to vital pet health services. We also believe in increasing the number of allowable hours performing community spay and neuter services vets and vet techs may offer as part of their license renewal. And offering signing bonuses for vets and vet techs working in public or nonprofit animal control agencies can dramatically increase staffing these settings.

Spay/Neuter

The Michelson Center for Public Policy continues to support and advocate for increasing budgets to provide more accessible spay and neuter programs. Spaying and neutering animals prevent unnecessary euthanasia, free-roaming animals, and overcrowded shelters. We advocate for low-cost and free spay and neuter programs, expanding the number of professionals who can conduct surgeries, and consulting services that help clinics cover expenses.

Pet-Inclusive Housing

The Michelson Center for Public Policy continues to advocate for the rights of people facing eviction or housing insecurity to maintain ownership of their pets. We applaud the City of Los Angeles for making permanent a COVID-era rule to prevent tenants from eviction just because they adopted a pet for companionship during that difficult time. In addition, we are considering a strategy to have pet fees in rental agreements be considered junk fees by the Federal Trade Commission.

DIGITAL EQUITY

AB 2239 (Bonta) Digital Anti-Discrimination Bill

As founding members of the California Digital Equity Alliance, we are proud co-sponsors of this [proposal](#), which would make California the pioneer in adopting the FCC's definition of digital discrimination into state law. This legislation targets policies that unjustly limit broadband access based on socioeconomic factors, spotlighting the digital divide that leaves communities of color disconnected. Following our triumph in Los Angeles with the city's first digital anti-discrimination policy, we're committed to combating communications industry practices that hinder broadband equality. By establishing a statewide definition, California can more equitably deploy its substantial broadband investments, ensuring fair internet access for all.

Broadband as a Public Utility

The Michelson Center for Public Policy believes internet service is an essential public utility. We are launching an educational campaign to promote the regulation of internet providers on par with utilities like water and power, emphasizing equitable access and enhanced infrastructure. By pushing for improved regulations, we aim to ensure universal, reliable internet access for everyone, bridging the digital divide and securing connectivity as an essential service for all.

HIGHER EDUCATION

AB 2458 (Berman) The GAINS (Greater, Aid, Information, Notice, and Support) for Student Parents Act

The Michelson Center for Public Policy is co-sponsoring this effort to support the 400,000 California college students who are parents of young children, many of whom are first-generation or people of color. By requiring automatic adjustments to financial aid for childcare expenses and requiring data collection to enhance student parent success, [AB 2458](#) aims to lessen financial burdens and promote equitable access to education. This crucial legislation ensures that student parents receive necessary support, fostering an environment where both they and their children can thrive.