



Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Members of Congress:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

On behalf of the University of California (UC) — which includes 295,000 students, 246,000 faculty and staff, and 2 million alumni, I write to share the University’s fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations programmatic priorities. Strong investments in these federal agencies and programs will help the University continue to serve as an economic and innovation engine for California and the nation. As you begin work on the FY 2025 process, the University urges you to continue to support investments that allow the University to successfully carry out its education, research, health care, and public service missions.

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

We recognize these are challenging economic times, but federal investments in these agencies and programs mean that institutions, such as the University of California, can continue to improve the lives of Californians and people around the world through world-class educational opportunities, groundbreaking research, and top-rated health care.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

The enclosed documents outline the University of California system’s FY 2025 federal appropriations programmatic priorities, but there are a few areas of specific importance I would like to call your attention to:

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Student Support: The University of California provides one of the most comprehensive financial aid programs in the nation, helping ensure that cost is not a barrier to higher education and allowing our students to graduate with the least amount of debt possible. Federal financial aid is a key factor in our financial aid packaging. The University urges Congress to continue its investments in federal aid programs—including doubling the Pell Grant so that the maximum award reaches \$14,800 and is continually indexed to inflation. The University also urges Congress to invest in programs that support students’ basic needs, such as reliable access to food, housing, health care, affordable childcare, transportation, and technology. Additionally, the University asks Congress to increase investments in programs for Minority-Serving Institutions. At the University of California, five of our ten campuses have met the federal criteria for a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and eight have met the criteria for an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

Research and Innovation: While recognizing the challenging budget environment with the implementation of the caps on discretionary spending set by the Fiscal Reduction Act, the University is disappointed with the FY 2024 appropriations for the science agencies, especially the National Science Foundation’s (NSF’s) five percent cut below FY 2023 enacted. Strong investments in our federal research agencies—including the NSF,

National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Energy's Office of Science, NASA, National Institute of Standards and Technology and others—allow the University of California to be an engine of economic innovation and a transformational part of the state's economy. The University strongly encourages Congress to build upon the strong bipartisan support displayed via the CHIPS and Science Act and provide the science agencies with the critical funding necessary for the nation to remain a world leader in innovation. The University encourages Congress to provide robust and sustained appropriations for our future scientific workforce, diversity in STEM programs, technology transfer initiatives and research infrastructure. We believe UC researchers are well-positioned to win competitive grants across the full spectrum of federal research programs and the University supports robust and sustained funding for the federal research enterprise.

Health Care and Biomedical Research: The University is a national leader in providing clinical care to patients with the most complex medical needs and is a critical part of the health care safety net for Californians. The University urges Congress to eliminate scheduled cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital program and invest in programs like Health Resources and Services Administration's Title VII and Title VIII that address the nation's urgent health workforce shortages. In addition, the University also urges Congress to continue investing in the NIH's base budget while providing additional funding for exciting new opportunities at Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of California. The priorities outlined in the attached document are listed by appropriations subcommittee for your consideration.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or UC Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations Chris Harrington. He can be reached at (202) 997-3150 or by email at Chris.Harrington@ucdc.edu.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Drake, M.D.
President

Enclosures

cc: University of California Chancellors
Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
Interim Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications
Michael Reese
Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations Chris Harrington