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March 12, 2013

The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 58 (Wieckowski), as introduced January 7, 2013
Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on March 19, 2013
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Pan:

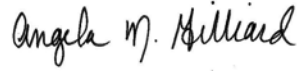
On behalf of the University of California (UC), I am writing to express our support of AB 58 (Wieckowski), which would continue the informed consent exemption for medical experimental treatment that benefits patients subject to life-threatening emergencies.

UC operates academic medical centers in Davis, Los Angeles, Irvine, San Diego and San Francisco. The UC clinical enterprise is the fourth largest healthcare delivery system in the state and staffs five trauma centers throughout California. On an annual basis, we see approximately 290,000 patients in our emergency department. The University is also one of the largest recipients of NIH funding in the nation for biomedical research. The provision of complex critical care to California's medically vulnerable population and the undertaking of medical research are two of the key missions of the University of California. AB 58 would enable us to continue to fulfill our mission in service to the people of California.

Research conducted in emergency room settings is important to advance knowledge regarding the care and treatment of critically ill or injured patients. Often, these patients are brought to the emergency room in a condition that does not allow for informed consent from the patient or a legally authorized representative prior to the initiation of an experimental medical intervention. AB 58 would eliminate the 2014 sunset date for existing state law that allows a waiver of informed consent, if prescribed conditions are met, thus permitting experimental medical intervention that might benefit a patient in a life-threatening situation when available treatments might be regarded as unproven or less satisfactory. Because the existing state law and the federal regulations it conforms to set forth very narrow circumstances when urgent medical intervention may be delivered without informed consent, we believe that medically vulnerable patients are appropriately protected under AB 58.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions on the University's position on AB 58, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela M. Gilliard".

Angela Gilliard, JD
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski
Members, Assembly Health Committee
President Mark G. Yudof
Provost Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez