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April 8, 2013

The Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2053
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 809 (DeSaulnier, Steinberg), as introduced February 22, 2013
Scheduled for hearing in Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee on April 15, 2013.
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Price:

The University of California (UC) supports SB 809 (*DeSaulnier, Steinberg),* which would establish funding for the CURES database, supporting real-time tracking and monitoring of all controlled substance prescriptions filled in the State of California. UC operates five academic medical centers and 18 professional schools and programs including two schools of pharmacy in San Francisco and San Diego. The UC Clinical Enterprise is the fourth largest healthcare delivery system in California.

Prescription drug overdoses, primarily opioids, account for over 4,000 accidental deaths annually in California, which is more than illicit drugs. Currently all controlled substance prescriptions are entered into the CURES database but with delays that interfere with the utility to monitor use. Deployment of real-time data will allow prescribers to check for multiple opioid prescriptions before writing and transmitting these prescriptions for patients. Pharmacists will be able to check at the time of dispensing to minimize the risk to patients and their families.

This is an important piece of legislation to prevent prescription drug misuse and deaths. The funding comes from license fee increases. For these reasons, the University supports SB 809.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions on the University's position on SB 809, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Gilliard

Angela M. Gilliard, JD
Legislative Director

cc: Senators DeSaulnier
Senator Steinberg
Members, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
President Mark G. Yudof
Provost Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
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