



# FEDERAL UPDATE

The Report on Congressional & Administration Activities  
2017, Issue 8

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## WASHINGTON UPDATE

In September, Congress returned to Washington, DC following the August district work period. On Sept. 7 and 8 the Senate and House, respectively, passed a continuing resolution (CR), which was signed by President Trump, to keep the government funded through Dec. 8. The legislation also includes funding to raise the debt ceiling and provides emergency funding in response to recent hurricanes and wildfires.

The University of California (UC) Office Federal Governmental Relations (FGR) remains actively engaged in budget and appropriations advocacy efforts and is working with the California congressional delegation and other key policymakers to support the University’s key priorities in advance of the passage of final federal Fiscal Year (FY)

2018 appropriations legislation.

On Sept. 5 President Trump announced his decision to effectively end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This decision will uproot the lives of an estimated 800,000 Dreamers across the nation, thousands of whom currently attend or have graduated from the University of California. Additional details about UC’s ongoing federal advocacy on this issue are outlined below.

On Sept. 22, FGR shared with the California congressional delegation, a letter from Executive Vice President of UC Health John D. Stobo, M.D. encouraging members to vote against the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. UC Health was specifically concerned about the impact of the legislation’s proposed changes to Medicaid. Enactment of the Graham-Cassidy legislation would have significantly reduced health insurance coverage in California and the nation, and challenged our medical centers’ capacity to serve as safety net institutions.

UC President Janet Napolitano was in Washington, DC in September to co-host *The Future of NAFTA and the State of U.S.-Mexico Relations* forum with Alejandro Poiré, dean of the School of Social Sciences and Government at Tecnológico de Monterrey. While in Washington, President Napolitano also participated in additional meetings and events. Other advocacy-related events throughout the month included the Rally for Medical Research and the California State Society’s Back to College Night.

More details about these and additional topics are below.

## BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

On Sept. 7 and Sept. 8, the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, passed a FY 2018 continuing resolution – [H.R. 601](#), the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017 – funding the federal government through Dec. 8. The measure passed the Senate 80-17 and the House 316-90 and was signed into law by President Trump on Sept. 8. In addition to keeping the government open into December, it also provides a short-term debt limit increase through Dec. 8 and provides emergency funding in response to recent hurricanes and wildfires.

The House and Senate have each taken additional actions to advance regular FY 2018 funding bills. Although, an overall budget agreement has not yet been reached to accommodate the spending proposed in either body's appropriations legislation. After two years of partial relief enacted under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the full impact of the lower Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 sequestration caps returns for FY 2018. New changes to the underlying BCA budget law would have to be enacted to alter the overall FY 2018 discretionary spending cap of \$1.065 trillion, and to revise the caps for the defense and non-defense categories as proposed.

The House has passed its versions of all 12 appropriations bills. On Sept. 14, by a vote of 211-198, the House passed [H.R. 3354](#), the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, the vehicle for an omnibus legislative package for the eight remaining FY 2018 appropriations bills. This bill is also known as the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018. The measure included the Agriculture; Commerce-Science-Justice; Financial Services; Homeland Security; Interior-Environment; Labor-Health and Human Services-Education; State-Foreign Operations; and the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development appropriations bills. While there were some limited changes to the legislation in floor amendments, none significantly altered provisions related to UC's priorities (as compared to legislation that passed in committee). In total, the House appropriations legislation would cut non-defense programs by \$8 billion below FY 2017 levels, and increase defense spending by \$70 billion over FY 2017.

The Senate is operating under a more conservative plan – roughly adhering to FY 2017 spending caps. Eight bills have passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and none out of the full Senate. Since the [Washington Update, Issue 7](#), published on Aug. 9, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill (on Sept. 7). Below are updates on [UC priorities](#) within that bill:

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

#### Department of Education

- **Pell Grants:** The Senate's legislation provides for \$22.48 billion in discretionary funding for the program in FY 2018, as well as the first discretionary increase in the maximum Pell grant in over a decade, with a 1.7 percent increase from \$5,920 to \$6,020. This allows Pell awards to track with inflation, a priority that UC highlighted in its communications to the California congressional delegation. The legislation also provides sufficient funding to continue Year-Round Pell, which UC strongly supported and was reinstated in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. The Senate committee's

legislation recommends a rescission of \$2.6 billion from the Pell surplus, substantially less than the \$3.27 recommended by the House's corresponding legislation.

- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants:** As with the corresponding House committee legislation, the Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$733 million in FY 2018, the same level as enacted in FY 2017.
- **Federal Work-Study:** As with the corresponding House committee legislation, the Senate's legislation proposes funding the program at \$989 million in FY 2018, the same level as enacted in FY 2017.
- **TRIO Programs:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the TRIO programs at \$953 million in FY 2018, \$60 million lower than the House committee's legislation, but the same level as enacted in FY 2017.
- **GEAR UP:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$339.8 million, \$10 million lower than the House committee's legislation, but the same level as enacted in FY 2017.
- **Aid for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) – Title V**  
**Part A—Strengthening Hispanic-Serving Institutions:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$107.8 million in FY 2018, \$10 million lower than was enacted in FY 2017.  
**Part B—Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$9.7 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017.
- **Teacher Preparation and Teacher Quality Programs:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the Teacher Quality Partnership Program at \$38 million, a \$5 million reduction from the enacted FY 2017 level, but contrary to the House committee's proposal to eliminate the program in FY 2018.
- **Title VI International Education Programs:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the programs at \$72.2 million, a \$7 million increase over the House's proposal, and the same level as enacted in FY 2017, accounting for the inclusion of the Fulbright-Hays international education programs that UC has highlighted as a priority.
- **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN):** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$23 million, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and rejecting the House committee's \$22.3 million proposed cut to the program.
- **Institute for Education Sciences:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the Institute at \$600.3 million in FY 2018, a \$5 million cut from the enacted FY 2017 funding level.

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH):** The Senate Appropriations Committee proposes funding the NIH at \$36.084 billion for FY 2018, a \$2 billion increase from the enacted FY 2017 level, and aligning with UC's requested funding level for the fiscal year. Furthermore, the committee rejects the administration's proposal to cap Facilities and Administrative costs. Furthermore, the committee proposes continued funding for the John E. Fogarty International Center, which had previously been targeted for elimination.

#### **HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

- **Title VII Health Professions Training:** The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding these training programs at \$316.7 million, an increase of \$7.5 million over the enacted FY 2017 funding level.

- **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development**: The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding these development programs at \$234 million, an increase of \$5 million over the enacted FY 2017 funding level.

### **HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

- **CDC**: The Senate committee legislation proposes funding CDC at \$7.18 billion for FY 2018, an increase of \$125 million over the House committee's legislation, and \$70 million below the enacted FY 2017 funding level.
- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**: The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding NIOSH at \$335.2 million, the same level as enacted in FY 2017.
- **NIOSH Education and Research Centers (ERCs)**: The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$29 million for FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017.
- **NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program**: The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding the program at \$25.5 million for FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017.

**HHS, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**: The Senate committee's legislation proposes funding AHRQ at \$324 million, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017.

### **Congress Prohibits Implementation of New National Institutes of Health (NIH) 10 Percent Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs Cap Proposal**

In September, Congress took additional steps to prohibit the Administration from imposing a new 10 percent F&A costs cap on NIH extramural research funding. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, which included perfected statutory language (Section 227) that tracks closely with the intent of the House Appropriations Committee bill provision (Section 228), but expands the prohibition to cover "any department or agency" including the Office of Management and Budget.

Language with similar effect (Section 138) was included in the FY 2018 Continuing Resolution/debt limit extension/disaster relief funding bill that was signed into law on Sept. 8. Subsequently on Sept. 14, the House approved a package of eight domestic agency appropriations bills that carried the House committee-passed NIH F&A cap prohibition without change.

This progress is the result of significant and persuasive efforts – across UC and the nation's academic research enterprise – to explain to Congress and the administration how F&A expenses are legitimate costs of federally sponsored research. UC FGR will continue to work with all partners to ensure that the prohibition remains in final FY 2018 appropriations legislation. For additional information, please contact Marjorie Duske at [Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu](mailto:Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6306.

### **Appropriations Advocacy**

On Sept. 6, FGR shared a [letter](#) from UC President Napolitano with the California congressional delegation highlighting the federal programs of importance to the university. The letter

accompanied the university's FY 2018 federal funding priorities document, which was originally shared with the delegation earlier this year.

FGR continues to advocate, in partnership with our campus and laboratory colleagues, through direct communications with congressional members, staff and key committees, for the university's research, education and health care priorities throughout the budget and appropriations processes. For additional information, please contact Marjorie Duske at [Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu](mailto:Marjorie.Duske@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6306, Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309, or Crystal Martinez at [Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu](mailto:Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6308.

## CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

### **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program**

On Sept. 5, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Trump administration was ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, effective March 5, 2018. Shortly after the announcement, FGR shared [UC President Janet Napolitano's statement](#) on President Trump's decision with the California congressional delegation, delivered a [letter to congressional leadership](#) expressing President Napolitano's concerns with the administration's decision to end the program and calling for Congress to take up bipartisan legislation immediately. In addition, UC President Napolitano joined with other leaders from across California's higher education community – including California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) systems, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities and the California Department of Education – in a [letter](#) expressing the concerns of the community and calling upon Congress “to immediately enact the bipartisan legislation that will protect our nation's Dreamers”.

On Sept. 6, UC activated its UC Advocacy Network (UCAN) calling upon advocates to [join with the university](#) in asking Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to protect Dreamers. To date, more than 5,000 letter have been delivered to Congress from UC advocates.

On Sept. 8, FGR shared with the California congressional leaders the [announcement](#) that UC was pursuing legal action against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for unconstitutionally violating the rights of the university and its students by rescinding the DACA program.

Also in September, FGR shared with the California congressional delegation a [letter](#) from President Napolitano and each of the university's ten chancellors that was sent to the UC community containing guidance for students and other community members who are in the DACA program and encouraged members of the delegation to share this information with their constituents.

FGR has established that a large contingent of the California congressional delegation is open to legislative action that would codify protections for DACA recipients and Dreamers more broadly, and continues to advocate for a permanent, bipartisan legislative solution to this issue. For additional information, please contact Crystal Martinez at [Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu](mailto:Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6308.

### **Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act**

The Federal Perkins Loan Program—which more than 16,000 UC students benefit from—is due to expire on Sept. 30 without an extension from Congress. [H.R. 2482](#) and [S. 1808](#), The Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act, introduced by Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) in the U.S. House, and Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Rob Portman (R-OH), Robert Casey (D-PA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) in the U.S. Senate, would seek to extend the program for an additional two years.

Much as in 2015, when the program was last reauthorized, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, is the driving force preventing the bill from reaching the Senate floor for a vote. Sen. Alexander's rationale for allowing the program to lapse centers around his belief that the loan and grant process should be simplified. The legislative proposals provide no new federal funding, but rather it allows universities to continue extending loans using existing revolving funds. On Sept. 28, a bipartisan group of Senators attempted to bring up S. 1808 under unanimous consent for a vote, but Sen. Alexander opposed the motion.

FGR and UC's association colleagues will continue to conduct outreach and advocacy on the importance of the Federal Perkins Loan Program, and encourage members of Congress to cosponsor the legislation – UC reached out to all House and Senate members of the California congressional delegation in September asking them to cosponsor the bill – with an aim to pass the legislation on suspension in the House, thereby putting pressure on Sen. Alexander to relinquish his hold on the bill in the Senate. For additional information, please contact Crystal Martinez at [Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu](mailto:Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6308

### **Health Care Reform**

In September, there was a significant attempt to bring to the floor a proposal by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) to replace the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) subsidies with block grants of \$1.2 trillion by 2026, end the individual mandate and scale back Medicaid expansion. Like earlier legislation aimed at repealing the ACA's coverage provisions, this bill would have posed great harm to California and UC Health. The ACA's Medicaid expansion resulted in an additional \$21 billion in funding for California, with 3.7 million Californians acquiring health care coverage as a result. Additionally, the ACA's cost-sharing reduction subsidies helped many of the 1.6 million Californians enrolled in California's health exchange afford private health care coverage.

The funding formula for the states' block grants fails to account for a significant proportion of the Medicaid expansion, underscoring that the Graham-Cassidy state flexibility approach is underfunded. In addition to providing insufficient funding per capita and lacking sensitivity to the regional costs of care, the following provisions in the Graham-Cassidy bill concerned UC:

- Reducing by one-third (to be phased in between FY 2021 and FY 2026) the amount of matching funds for the traditional Medicaid program that states can generate through lawful provider taxes;
- Changing private exchange market rules permitting a modification of the age rating limit to permit variation of 5:1 effective 2019 (the current permitted variation is 3:1);

- Repealing the enhanced federal matching rate for Medicaid expansion, the ACA income-based premium tax credits and state health care exchanges' cost-sharing reduction subsidies effective January 1, 2020;
- Allowing states to seek waivers to eliminate coverage of the ACA's ten categories of essential health benefits, thereby rendering the ACA's caps on lifetime and annual cost limits meaningless when states obtain such waivers; and
- Ending federal funding of retroactive Medicaid eligibility.

On Sept. 22, FGR shared with the California congressional delegation, on behalf of the University of California Health System (UC Health) and Executive Vice President for UC Health John D. Stobo, M.D., a [letter](#) urging their opposition to the legislation.

On Sept. 26, Senate leadership announced that they did not have the votes to bring the Graham-Cassidy legislation to the floor. This is likely the last attempt to repeal the ACA before the Sept. 30 deadline to do so with a simple majority of the Senate.

Throughout September, Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, held four hearings on bipartisan measures that could be taken to stabilize the individual insurance market. These hearings included testimony from state insurance commissioners, governors, insurance companies and patient advocates. The committee expressed interest in formulating bipartisan legislation that extends cost-sharing reductions (CSR) through 2019, expands reinsurance programs and risk pools and improves states' flexibility to administer their nongroup health exchange marketplaces. The Senators halted their efforts to address stabilization of the markets when Senate Republican leaders opted to pursue Graham Cassidy legislative efforts. The scuttling of that legislative effort has allowed bipartisan talks to resume focused on stabilizing the markets.

While Democrats are asking that CSRs be funded by Congress for at least two years, Republicans are asking for flexibility in how states provide ACA benefits through their exchanges' qualified health plans. Democratic senators have indicated they may be supportive of Sens. Alexander and Murray's efforts to stabilize states' nongroup health insurance exchanges, if Republican senators agree to congressional funding of CSRs for two years and any alterations giving states more flexibility in how they deliver exchange health care benefits are about the process of the administration reviewing states' 1332 waivers versus the administration permitting states to undermine the ACA's essential health benefits and community rating requirements. For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309.

### **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization**

CHIP reauthorization needs to occur by Sept. 30, so health care coverage for millions of children is not disrupted. UC is asking Congress to enact a long-term CHIP extension, providing states and families with the health care coverage certainty they need.

Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) [released](#) legislation that would extend CHIP funding for five years, continuing the ACA's

enhanced matching rate of 23 percent for 2018 and 2019 and then winding down to 11.5 percent in 2020, and eventually 0 percent in 2021.

On Sept. 28, the House Energy and Commerce Committee announced that they will mark up a bill the first week of October that would renew federal funding for CHIP and some Medicare programs meriting extender funding. Details of the legislation have not been released. House leadership is less likely to keep the ACA enhanced matching rate in any CHIP funding going forward. For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309.

### **Tax Reform Legislation**

On Sept. 27, the Trump administration, the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee released a joint comprehensive tax reform framework, “Unified Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code,” which provides a general outline for what may be included in a comprehensive tax reform package, which will likely be developed in the House and Senate this fall. The framework would make a number of changes to the individual and corporate tax rate structures, including reducing the current number of individual tax brackets from seven to three; increasing the standard deduction; and reducing the corporate tax rate to 20 percent. However, the proposal lacks specific details, such as which offsets, or specific changes, would be made, or which deductions would be eliminated. Further details will likely remain unknown until more comprehensive legislative outlines are released.

Key issues of interest to UC in the framework include the potential impact on charitable giving, and on higher education tax incentives, as well as a number of other areas. On a positive note, the framework “retains the tax incentives for...charitable contributions.” However, with the proposed increase in the standard deduction, the higher education and charitable giving communities are concerned that charitable giving incentives will be reduced under the proposal, due to the reduced likelihood that tax filers will need to file itemized tax returns, which are necessary to take the charitable deduction. A proposed solution being pursued by the charitable giving community is to suggest that the charitable deduction should be available to both itemizers and non-itemizers as an above the line deduction. The framework could also impact higher education tax incentives. While the framework “retains benefits that encourage work, higher education and retirement security,” the framework also suggests that these areas should be simplified to improve their efficiency, which means that higher education tax incentives could be changed, and it is unclear whether existing incentives will be preserved. UC FGR will continue to monitor developments.

## **POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATE**

### **Title IX**

On Sept. 22, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that the Department of Education (ED) was rescinding the Obama Administration’s 2011 guidance that provided clarity for schools on how to respond to incidents of sexual harassment and violence. The administration plans to formulate new guidance regarding schools’ responsibilities in handling sexual harassment and sexual violence that occur on campus or between students. Additionally, [a Q&A document](#) was published by ED to provide clarity to colleges and universities on how to handle these issues now that the Obama guidance was rescinded. Once the rule making process has been published, FGR will provide further information. For additional information, please contact Crystal Martinez at [Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu](mailto:Crystal.Martinez@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6308.

### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Proposal to Alter Part B Drug Reimbursement for 340B Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH)**

On Sept. 11, UC Health submitted a comment letter in response to provisions of the CMS proposed rule on the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System for Calendar Year 2018 that would diminish Medicare's reimbursement formula for Part B outpatient drugs as applied to 340B Drug Pricing Program participating DSH. The proposed rule would seek to reduce by as much as 28.5 percent the reimbursement rate 340B DSH hospitals receive for the purchase of most Part B drugs. Currently, 340B DSH hospitals receive "average sales price plus six percent" on Part B drugs. If implemented, this provision of the proposed rule would cut the Part B drug payment formula to "average sales price minus 22.5 percent." For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309.

### **340B Drug Discount Program**

Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Michael Burgess (R-TX) are leading a request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an investigation and draft a report on the use of contract pharmacies in the 340B Drug Discount Program. The report has four main objectives, which include:

- Determining the extent to which contract pharmacies are used by covered entities and where they are located;
- Examining the financial arrangements covered entities have with contract pharmacies and administrators relating to the dispensing of 340B drugs;
- Determining the extent to which covered entities provide low-income, vulnerable patients with discount drugs; and
- Assessing how the Health Resources and Service Administration ensures compliance with 340B program requirements.

According to discussions UC Health partner advocacy organizations have had with staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, the majority initiated its request to the GAO as early as 2016. The subcommittee additionally held a July hearing on the 340B Drug Pricing Program. At that hearing, majority members of the subcommittee stated an interest in introducing legislation that would allow the Health Resources and Service Administration greater oversight of the 340B Program, including requiring 340B covered entities to track and report their annual 340B savings. For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309.

## **ADVOCACY UPDATE**

### **UC President Janet Napolitano Visit Washington, DC**

*The Future of NAFTA and the State of U.S.-Mexico Relations*

On Sept. 21, the University of California and Tecnológico de Monterrey hosted *The Future of NAFTA and the State of U.S.-Mexico Relations*, a [forum](#) held at the UC Washington Center. Co-hosted by UC President Janet Napolitano and Alejandro Poiré, former Mexican Secretary of SEGOB and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Government at Tecnológico de Monterrey, and in partnership with the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI) and the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), the event brought together academics, policymakers, business leaders and other experts for a discussion on the future of NAFTA and the state of U.S.-Mexico relations.

The event featured five panels and a lunchtime conversation between President Napolitano and Dean Poiré, moderated by *The Atlantic* and *CNN's* Ron Brownstein.

The panels focused on:

1. The Modernization of NAFTA
2. Global Competitiveness of Key North American Industries
3. Developing a Workforce for the Globalized Economy
4. Nationalism vs. Regionalism in North America: What's at Stake?
5. The California-Mexico Relationship

The final panel was moderated by President Napolitano where she was joined by California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, Co-founder and Senior Advisor at Nueva Vista Group Maria Echaveste and Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S. Gerónimo Gutiérrez for a conversation that explored the importance of trade to the future of the dynamic western U.S.-Mexico relationship. A webcast of the forum is available [online](#).

#### *Additional Washington, DC Events*

In addition to the NAFTA forum, during her trip, President Napolitano met with some of the university's Presidential Public Service fellows who are currently interning in Washington, DC through the UC Washington Center. The fellowship program, established in 2016, encourages undergraduate students to participate in internships through the UC Washington Center or UC Center Sacramento.

She also met with Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) to discuss the rescission of the DACA program and participated in a panel discussion at the Brookings Institute titled *Immigration Policy in Trump's America*. A webcast of the discussion is available [online](#).

#### **Back to College Night**

On Sept. 12, FGR participated in Back to College Night on Capitol Hill, an annual event sponsored by the California State Society, of which UC is an active member. At the event, which highlights higher education institutions across California, all ten UC campuses and the UC Advocacy Network were represented and alumni were able to reconnect with one another and with their university. FGR, along with the California State University system, helped coordinate the event in an effort to engage with members of Congress and their staff on the value of California higher education. Reps. Jackie Speier (CA-14), Salud Carbajal (CA-24), Jerry McNerney (CA-9) and Adam Schiff (CA-28) [visited the UC tables](#). For additional information, please contact Julia Rowe at [Julia.Rowe@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julia.Rowe@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6304.

#### **Rally for Medical Research**

On Sept. 13-14, early career and senior career researchers from UCLA, UC San Diego, and UCSF were in Washington, DC to participate in the American Association for Cancer Research's annual Rally for Medical Research. UC participants met with House and Senate leadership and key leadership of the Appropriations Committees' health subcommittees, as well as with the offices of California Reps. Karen Bass, Anna Eshoo, Kevin McCarthy, Scott Peters and Leader Nancy Pelosi. These legislative visits allowed UC researchers to speak about their specific research while also thanking congressional staff and members for a recent boost in annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. All researchers participating advocated for a

\$2 billion increase in NIH funding for FY 2018. Select UC social media coverage is available [here](#) and [here](#), and the UC-NIH fact sheet developed for the event is available [here](#). For additional information, please contact Julie Clements at [Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu](mailto:Julie.Clements@ucdc.edu) or 202-974-6309.

## FEDERAL CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

- On Aug. 28, **Sen. Kamala Harris** (D-CA) visited the **UCLA** Labor Center and met with undocumented students from across the state.
- On Aug. 28, CDR **Ben Jones**, deputy director, Task Force Ocean, Office of the Oceanography and Navigator of the Navy, United States Navy, visited **UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography**, to meet with Margaret Leinen, vice chancellor for marine sciences and director of institute. CDR Jones also toured labs and met with Navy-funded principal investigators.
- On Aug. 29, **John Waterson**, program manager, Strategic Technology Office, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), visited **UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography** to meet with faculty.
- On Sept. 1, **Rep. Randy Hultgren** (IL-14) met with Michael Witherell, director, **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**, and received briefings on the laboratories physics research.
- On Sept. 10, **Sen. Brian Schatz** (D-HI) visited **UC San Francisco** Benioff Children's Hospital.
- On Sept. 15, **Rep. Barbara Lee** (CA-13) met with Chancellor Carol Christ, Paul Alivisatos, executive vice chancellor and provost, and Oscar Dubon, vice chancellor for equity and inclusion, **UC Berkeley**, to discuss diversity and inclusion issues and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.
- On Sept. 15, **Reps. Mark DeSaulnier** (CA-11) and **Barbara Lee** (CA-13) visited **UC Berkeley** and participated in an Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) Basic Needs conference.
- On Sept. 15, **Rep. Jerry McNerney** (CA-09) visited the **UC Berkeley** Nuclear Technology Innovation Laboratory and met with faculty and graduate students.
- On Sept. 20, **Rep. Ted Lieu** (CA-33) visited **UCLA** to learn about student issues.
- On Sept. 23, **Reps. Kathy Castor** (FL-14) and **Jeff Denham (CA-10)** visited **UC Berkeley** for the UC Berkeley vs. USC football game.
- On Sept. 29, **Rep. Lou Correa** (CA-46) met with Thomas Parham, vice chancellor student affairs, **UC Irvine**, and visited the Veteran Services Center for an update briefing.

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Interim Associate Vice President - Chris Harrington 202-974-6314

Director of Science and Technology.....	Marjorie Duske	202-974-6306
Director of Health and Clinical Affairs.....	Julie Clements	202-974-6309
Director for Education.....	Crystal Martinez	202-974-6308
Legislative Director for Research .....	Chris Carter	202-974-6310
Principal Legislative Analyst.....	Kamala Lyon	202-974-6312
Legislative and Communications Specialist.....	Nicole Carlotto	202-974-6325
Legislative Analyst.....	Carl Welliver	202-974-6302
Operations Manager and Executive Assistant.....	Ryan Stee	202-974-6307
Government Relations Staff Assistant.....	Julia Rowe	202-974-6304

***For more information on the items in this report or on federal governmental relations activities, please contact the Office of Federal Governmental Relations***