



Michael V. Drake, MD
President

March 15, 2023

Office of the President
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Oakland, CA 94607

universityofcalifornia.edu

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- Berkeley
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- Santa Cruz

MEDICAL CENTERS

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- San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), thank you for your continued investments in the federal agencies and programs that support our education, research, health care, and public service missions. In partnership with the federal government, the University is an economic and innovation engine, enabling us to educate California and our nation’s workforce, advance scientific and technological breakthroughs, and provide world-class medical training and high-quality patient care. The fiscal year (FY) 2023 omnibus appropriations legislation provided significant investments for the University and our nation’s education, research, and health care enterprises. The University of California is especially appreciative for the increase of \$500 for the Pell Grant maximum award as well as investments in science funding built on passage of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act.

As the FY 2024 appropriations process gets underway, the University of California urges Congress to reach bipartisan agreement to ensure parity between defense and non-defense discretionary funding. Non-defense discretionary funding is fundamentally important to the University and our nation’s institutions of higher education, and cuts would endanger the growth of our country’s education, research, and health care enterprises.

The enclosed documents outline the University of California system’s complete FY 2024 federal appropriations priorities, but there are a few areas of specific importance I would like to call your attention to:

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. 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 \$13,000 and is 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 supports increased 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 and two have met the criteria for an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

Research and Innovation: Building upon the strong bipartisan support for the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, we encourage Congress to provide robust and sustained appropriations for our future scientific workforce, diversity in STEM programs,

technology transfer initiatives, and research infrastructure. The University of California 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, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation, Department of Energy Office of Science, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA, among others. The University also strongly supports efforts to increase the diversity of researchers, including efforts to encourage partnerships between leading research universities and Minority Serving Institutions. Efforts to address climate change remain a top priority for the University of California, and we encourage Congress' full support of programs and initiatives that invest in climate and sustainability research and technology.

Health Care and Biomedical Research: The University of California is a national leader in providing clinical care to patients with the most complex medical needs, and 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 that will address the nation's urgent healthcare workforce shortages. The University also urges Congress to continue investing in the NIH's base budget while providing additional funding for exciting new opportunities at ARPA-H.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

Enclosures

cc: UC Chancellors
Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
UC Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications
Brent Colburn
Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations Chris Harrington