



Michael V. Drake, MD
President

September 20, 2023

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

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the University of California (UC)—including our 294,000 students, 240,000 faculty and staff, and 2 million alumni—thank you for your continued support for the federal agencies and programs that help ensure the University remains an economic and innovation engine for California and the nation.

CAMPUSES

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

As Congress works on the fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills, the University of California urges you to complete action on all 12 appropriations bills by Sept. 30, and to include robust funding levels for [the University’s appropriations priorities](#). Funding for these critical programs is needed to ensure that the University can continue to meet its education, research, health care and public service mission. The University is concerned that a government shutdown, particularly one that lasts for an extended period of time, could have adverse effects on our research and education activities, as well as our health care enterprise.

MEDICAL CENTERS

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

The budget levels included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, Public Law 118-5) already present challenges for Congress to provide robust investments in the many federal programs and services of importance to the University of California. However, the University is most concerned about the U.S. House of Representatives-drafted FY 2024 appropriations bills, which violate the funding levels established in the law by including additional steep cuts to non-defense discretionary spending and significant rescissions. If these bills become law, they will undermine the University of California’s ability to provide a path to a debt-free education for our lowest income students, develop the next generation of scientific breakthroughs to maintain U.S. competitiveness, and provide health care access to patients in underserved communities across the state.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

As Congress continues to negotiate the FY 2024 appropriations bills, outlined below are a few programs I would like to call your attention to. The University of California asks that Congress act now to reach consensus on a final FY 2024 appropriations package that includes strong support for the University’s priorities.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

Student Support: The University of California strongly opposes the House proposal to cut the Federal Work-Study (FWS), the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) and the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs. Defunding these programs will make higher education more expensive and less attainable for students of all levels. FWS provides part-time, on-campus jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money through work and cutting it would negatively impact 9,600 students across our campuses. If FSEOG is eliminated, more than 19,000 UC students would no longer receive aid. These grants provide additional aid to very low-income students with

exceptional need in emergency situations. In addition, the University continues to urge Congress to invest in the Pell Grant so that the maximum award reaches \$13,000 and is indexed to inflation. By significantly increasing the maximum Pell Grant, students will be less inclined to take out loans and more likely to graduate without a mountain of debt.

Research and Innovation: As the one of the largest recipients of science funding, the University of California is concerned with the proposed cuts for the research agencies, including nearly \$3 billion less than FY 2023 enacted for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Additionally, the University is concerned about cuts to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Science Directorate and the Department of Defense's Science and Technology budgets. Building upon the strong bipartisan support and passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, the University strongly urges Congress to pass FY 2024 appropriations bills with robust increases for the science agencies. These critical investments will ensure the United States remains a world leader in innovation.

Health Care Delivery: University of California clinicians and researchers are working together to solve some of the toughest problems in human health – including developing and delivering new cures and treatments, addressing health disparities, and innovating new models of health care delivery. In addition to providing \$51 billion for the National Institutes of Health, the University urges Congress to continue bipartisan investments in the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) health workforce training programs – Title VII and Title VIII. The House proposals to eliminate AHRQ and cut funding for other critical health agencies will directly harm the ability of our faculty to support the health of communities throughout the state. As a critical safety net healthcare provider for California, the University asks that Congress also repeal the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1 without cutting Medicare reimbursement to hospital outpatient departments or limitations on the 340B drug discount program – both essential components of our efforts to provide health care access across the state.

The University recognizes that these are challenging budgetary times and that reaching agreement on all twelve appropriations bills is a significant task. Should Congress need to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government operational and avoid a government shutdown, the University urges Congress to pass a clean bipartisan, bicameral CR that supports continued funding for the federal programs and initiatives that enable us to successfully carry out our education, research, health care and public service mission. A clean CR will ensure that federal programs continue to provide essential services while Congress works to finish FY 2024 funding legislation needed to provide for a stable economy and support the important programs and services that help our campus communities succeed.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of California. 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, MD
President

cc: Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
UC Chancellors
UC Interim Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications
Michael Reese
UC Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations
Chris Harrington