



Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

March 3, 2025

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the University of California (UC)—representing more than 295,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 246,000 faculty and staff, and 2.6 million alumni—thank you for your ongoing support for the federal agencies and programs that are crucial to ensuring that the University remains an education, research and health care leader, as well as a driver of economic growth and innovation, to California and the nation.

As Congress considers a continuing resolution (CR) for the remainder of federal fiscal year (FY) 2025, we ask for your full support for the federal agencies, programs, and initiatives that enable the University to successfully carry out its mission. Additionally, we encourage you to refrain from including policy riders that detrimentally impact the academic community's mission to support its students, faculty and alumni.

Below, I would like to call to your attention a few areas of specific importance. We recognize that these are challenging fiscal times, but continued support for these key areas will help us meet today's challenges and tomorrow's needs.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs: The University of California urges Congress to ensure life-saving biomedical research continues without impediment. We ask Congress to oppose the NIH's Feb. 7 guidance on F&A costs and preserve bipartisan appropriations language (Sec. 224 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-47)), which directs the NIH and the federal agencies to adhere to the current process set forth by Congress.

California is the largest recipient of NIH dollars in the country, which supports California universities and companies working on research towards cures and treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's disease and countless other conditions. The fruits of America's investment in California life sciences are countless—from Nobel prize-winning innovations like gene editing to discoveries and cures for diabetes, heart attacks and strokes. They also include supporting 56,000 jobs and \$13.55 billion in economic activity across our state. The University of California leads the nation in NIH research, and this leadership is at the foundation of California's world-leading biotechnology economy. The NIH's decision to cap F&A costs would prove catastrophic for the scientific community and countless Americans hoping for new cures and treatments that result from federally funded research.

Funding Freezes and Impoundment Control Act: The Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Title X of P.L. 93-344) asserts Congress's power of the purse and regulates executive actions to withhold or impound congressionally appropriated funds, ensuring that the President follows Congress's intent in spending. To ensure these funds

continue to be dispersed, we request the inclusion of language in the CR to direct the federal agencies to cease any pauses and adhere to the direction provided by Congress.

Institutions, including the University of California, rely on the timely disbursement of federal appropriations to support critical work on federal government priorities, such as advancing agricultural research, assisting veterans and military families, and growing the nation's artificial intelligence leadership. Any action that precludes federal funds from being obligated or spent, either temporarily or permanently, hinders progress and erodes public trust. Without the assurance of regular appropriations, the University cannot continue to offer world-class educational opportunities, groundbreaking research, top-rated health care and agricultural expertise. We respect Congress's role in appropriating resources and support efforts to ensure funds are not frozen or delayed.

Wildfire Relief: As you know, the devastating wildfires in Southern California have deeply affected the region. In times of crisis, Congress has delivered critical aid to support communities in need. To that end, we request the CR include robust federal investments to help California rebuild and recover from the recent wildfires. The region's recovery will be critical to the nation's long-term economic growth.

I am grateful that the University of California could assist first responders with weather forecasting and real-time monitoring to combat the wildfires; and that the UC community continues to support displaced students, staff, faculty and alumni. With your support, we can continue to offer invaluable resources to the state.

Health Care: Last year, University of California Health served patients from 91 percent of the zip codes in California—providing the most complex care to people across the state—particularly those insured by Medicare and Medicaid. We need Congress to strengthen the critical federal programs that support this work by repealing two years of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital program cuts, extending Medicare telehealth waivers and eliminating the scheduled 4 percent PAYGO cut to Medicare. Additionally, we urge Congress to support robust funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration Title VII (physician training) and Title VIII (nursing training) programs that allow us to grow a diverse health care workforce, as well as for the National Institutes of Health, which supports the science on our campuses that leads to new cures and treatments for patients.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of California. If you have any 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" followed by a stylized flourish.

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

cc: UC Chancellors
UC Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications
Meredith Turner
UC Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations
Chris Harrington