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## ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

October 26, 2009

To: Members of the California State Assembly

**RE: AB 188 (Jones/Alquist/Steinberg), as amended on October 14, 2009**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the University of California (UC), I am writing to request your support of AB 188. UC is a leader in health education, research and healthcare delivery, with academic medical centers (AMCs) at the Davis, Los Angeles, Irvine, San Diego, and San Francisco campuses and is the fourth-largest healthcare delivery system in California. UC provides much of the complex care in California, which can often only be provided in an academic medical center, and provides high-quality care to many publicly insured patients and a significant component of the state's uninsured population.

### **AB 188 provides necessary appropriation to support hospital safety net systems**

AB 188 would provide the necessary appropriation for the Department of Health Care Services to begin its work to seek the federal approvals to implement AB 1383 (Jones/Alquist). AB 1383, signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 11, is a proposal developed by California hospitals that would assess a fee on hospitals to raise more than \$2 billion annually to be used to obtain federal matching funds through December 2010. The funds would generate supplemental payments to hospitals to ensure access to care for the state's Medi-Cal and uninsured population. In addition, the hospital fee would provide the state with \$320 million annually for children's coverage, which could be used to draw down additional federal matching funds. This generous commitment would ensure that hundreds of thousands of children have health care coverage.

### **AB 188 provides funding of administrative expenses at no cost to the state**

AB 188 would provide the immediate funding to cover the state's administrative and staffing expenses to seek federal approval; provide the state with authority to make the supplemental payments to hospitals; and allow the state to disburse the funds for children's health care coverage. AB 188 is completely funded and there is no cost to the state, to taxpayers or to patients.

### **UC urges an "AYE" vote**

For the reasons listed above, we ask for your "AYE" vote on AB 188. We thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have questions about the University's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact Angela Gilliard at 916-445-9924.

## VOTE "AYE" on AB 188