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April 27, 2011

The Honorable William Monning, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 415 (Logue), as amended April 25, 2011**  
**Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on May 3, 2011**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Monning:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 415. This bill would remove barriers in current law and update to current practice the use of telehealth in the delivery of health care.

The University operates academic medical centers at the Davis, Los Angeles, Irvine, San Diego, and San Francisco campuses – as well as trains health professionals in the nation's largest health sciences and medical training program through schools/programs on seven UC campuses. UC has long been a leader in telehealth and telemedicine, with clinical faculty across the system having provided thousands of telehealth consultations to date. We believe that by implementing several recommendations from the Center for Connected Health Policy's Telehealth Model Statute Report, that AB 415 will advance the state's interest in expanding telehealth access for the benefit of all Californians.

Building upon national and state initiatives in telehealth, broadband access and health information exchange, UC is leveraging its leadership to extend the reach of UC health care expertise. Three major initiatives are currently underway within the UC system to expand the use of telehealth technologies and expertise throughout the state.

The first of these is the California Telehealth Network (CTN), a recent statewide broadband telehealth initiative created with \$22M in funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and \$3.6M in matching funds from several major California investors. Since 2007, the UC Davis Health System and the UC Office of the President have worked to advance the program, leading a statewide coalition of government, non-profit and other stakeholders. The CTN will provide managed broadband access to hundreds of primarily rural healthcare facilities throughout California. In the next several years, CTN expects that it will link more than 800 qualified sites, including all five of the UC academic health systems, Stanford University, University of Southern California and Loma Linda University, into a peer-to-peer network which will be one of the largest dedicated broadband networks to support medical care in the nation. The CTN will increase UC's ability to provide specialty consultations, provide health professionals with distance learning and disaster preparedness training, and expand access to in-home monitoring and teleconsulting. In September 2010, UC Davis, on behalf of the CTN, was awarded a \$14M project from the Broadband Technologies Opportunities

Program (U.S. Department of Commerce) to support the operations of the CTN and also to fund 15 “Model eHealth Communities” in California that will be exemplar communities for technology-enabled healthcare.

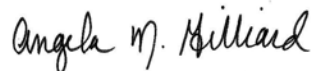
The second telehealth initiative is funded under Proposition 1D (2006), which authorizes \$200 million for “capital improvements to expand medical education programs with an emphasis on telemedicine aimed at developing high-tech approaches to health care.” This funding is enabling expansion of existing telemedicine programs at UC medical school campuses to provide facilities and state-of-the-art equipment needed to expand the use of telemedicine across the state.

Finally, the Specialty Care Safety Net Initiative (SCSNI), a program administered by the Center for Connected Health Policy, is a collaborative effort between UC medical school specialty departments and safety net clinics in California. The initiative seeks to identify barriers that prevent widespread adoption and sustainability of telehealth programs and focuses on care delivery in high-need specialties including dermatology, endocrinology, hepatology, neurology, orthopedics and psychiatry.

The University recognizes and appreciates Assembly Member Logue’s leadership in this important area. The measures proposed by this legislation are important to advance a policy environment consistent with California’s commitment to deploy broadband technology to improve healthcare access and quality. Should you have any questions concerning the University’s position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

We urge your support and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Angela Gilliard, JD  
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Dan Logue  
Members, Assembly Committee on Health  
President Mark G. Yudof  
Provost Lawrence Pitts  
Senior Vice President John Stobo  
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley  
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