



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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July 24, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Miller  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1309 (Miller) as amended July 2, 2012**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Miller:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 1309, a bill recently amended to allocate \$15 million to UC for the University of California, Riverside (UCR)'s School of Medicine from anticipated monies from a pending settlement between the Senior Care Action Network (SCAN) Health Plan and the State of California.

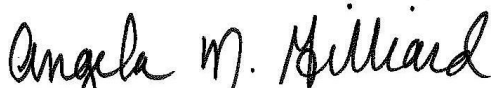
For more than 30 years, UCR has provided the first two years of medical education for students enrolled in the joint UCR-UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences. This history provides a strong foundation for development of a new, independent four-year medical school. In July 2008, UC's Board of Regents approved establishment of the UCR School of Medicine, paving the way for the first public medical school to be built in California in more than 40 years.

UCR is developing a medical school with education, research, and public service programs envisioned with an explicit focus on improving the health of the people of California, with special attention to meeting the needs of the diverse and growing Inland Southern California region. The UCR campus has recruited G. Richard Olds as founding dean; developed curricula; established partnerships with regional hospitals and clinics for medical student rotations and residencies; and is now seeking accreditation from the national Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME). Current focus centers on the resources required for a full four-year curriculum and the enrollment growth appropriate for an accredited medical school. Notwithstanding the state's major budgetary challenges, this school is much needed as a resource for preparing future physicians for California's growing and aging population.

These non-state funds would significantly contribute to UCR's ongoing efforts to expand and strengthen the foundation for the new school and to support customary costs associated with starting and launching a new school. In fact, \$15M is the amount UC has proposed for several years as part of the Regents budget to help with start-up costs and costs associated with transition from a two-year medical education program to a full four-year school. As you are likely aware, the LCME previously withheld preliminary accreditation based primarily on concerns about the state budget. During these challenging times, AB 1309 provides a mechanism to allocate one-time, non-state resources as part of a lasting investment for UCR's School of Medicine. This effort and commitment also provides a clear signal to the LCME regarding the state's need and long-range support for addressing California's health workforce needs through the contributions of a new medical school in Riverside.

On behalf of the UCR School of Medicine, and the people who will benefit from the services of UCR's future physician graduates, we appreciate your leadership and support for this major effort. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-9924 if you need additional information or assistance with this bill.

Sincerely,



Angela Gilliard, JD  
Legislative Director

cc: President Mark G. Yudof  
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