



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DANIEL M. DOOLEY
Senior Vice President – External Relations

Office of State Governmental Relations
1130 K Street, Suite 340
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 445-9924
Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

March 26, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

***Re: AB 2232 (Gray) As Introduced February, 21, 2014
Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on
April 1, 2014
Position: No Position***

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

The University of California (UC) writes to inform the Committee that we have no position on AB 2232 (Gray) at this time, since it lies outside of budget priorities established by the Regents in November 2013. However, as we have shared with the author, we are pleased to provide any technical assistance he may need in developing this policy.

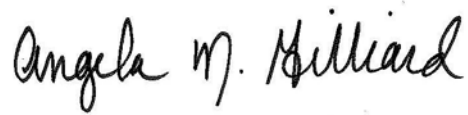
AB 2232 would appropriate from the General Fund \$1,855,000 to expand the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (PRIME) and \$1,000,000 to develop a plan to establish a medical school at UC Merced. Based on the current status of UC Merced, it is a higher priority to build the general campus. UC Merced is the youngest campus in the UC system, enrolling approximately 6,200 students (95% of them undergraduate students). Notwithstanding the past fiscal realities, UC has moved forward with a multi-year, staged approach that is focusing first on developing the infrastructure necessary for the overall campus to grow and excel.

The major challenge the University faces in expanding its medical education programs relates to the substantial resources required to develop a high quality teaching program that meets national requirements for accreditation. It is important to emphasize that accreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) is a requirement for all medical education programs authorized to grant the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in the United States. This standard is also a requirement for all individuals (who have earned a MD degree in the U.S.) seeking a license to practice in California (i.e., graduation from an LCME accredited medical school). The resources required to meet these standards are considerable.

Given our experience with UC Riverside's new School of Medicine and the many challenges it faced before it received accreditation from the LCME, we do not believe that the LCME would accredit a UC Merced medical program without evidence of a major financial contribution.

That said, we appreciate the efforts of the author to focus attention on the medical needs of the Central Valley, and we will continue to work with the author's office on technical aspects of this bill as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela M. Gilliard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela M. Gilliard, JD
Legislative Director

cc: Assemblymember Gray
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez
Associate Vice President Cathryn Nation