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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

August 29, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 609 (Nestande) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The University of California (UC) supports and requests your signature on AB 609 (Nestande), which would enact the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act. AB 609 would establish public access publication requirements for UC faculty and other researchers who receive research grants funded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Under AB 609, a researcher receiving a grant from CDPH would be required to submit an electronic copy of any publication generated from the research grant to CDPH or an approved publicly accessible database no later than 12 months after the work is published.

Scholars at the University of California have a vested interest in ensuring that their work reaches the widest possible audience, including members of the public whose tax dollars support the University's research. The UC Academic Senate passed an open access policy in July 2013, ensuring that future research articles authored by faculty at all 10 campuses of UC will be made available to the public at no charge. Open access policies, such as those adopted by the UC faculty and proposed under AB 609, benefit both the public and the future of research by accelerating the pace of research, discovery and innovation, and contributing to the mission of advancing knowledge and encouraging new ideas and services. We thank the author for his leadership on this important issue.

Should you have any questions on the University's position on AB 609, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-3299.

Sincerely,

Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assemblymember Nestande
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez