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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

April 7, 2015

The Honorable Marty Block
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 15 (Block, De León, Liu)
Set for Hearing in the Senate Education Committee on April 8, 2015
Position: Support in Concept

Dear Senator Block,

I am pleased to write in support of the major concepts outlined in SB 15 and to extend our thanks to you, your joint authors, and Senate staff for soliciting our input on this very important measure.

The University of California (UC) fully supports the concepts of increased enrollment of California residents, additional academic assistance for our students, and stronger investment in instruction and academic quality--priorities that are included in UC's 2015-16 budget. In our discussions with Senate staff, we have expressed our support for the following goals relative to SB 15:

- Endeavor to increase California resident enrollment at UC by 500 students in 2015-16 and plan for increased enrollment significantly above the annual increases already included in the University's multi-year plan, provided that plan is sufficiently funded.
- Increase UC nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) above the 5% increase in NRST that the Regents approved for each of the next three years. Due to the higher living costs at our campuses, however, we are concerned that significant increases in NRST, particularly imposed all at once, could reduce UC's ability to compete for these students, reducing nonresident enrollment and thus an important source of revenue that our campuses rely upon to support California resident students. We will examine the effect of these NRST increases every year to assess their effect on nonresident student enrollment.
- Increase our investment in student academic support services and instruction, particularly those efforts that address achievement gaps.

While we believe that specific provisions require further refinement, we look forward to continuing our conversations on the bill and strengthening our partnership with the State to provide a high quality education for our students. Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and please feel free to call me at (916) 445-9924 if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Juarez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Juarez
Associate Vice President and Director

cc: Pro Tem De León
Senator Liu
Members of the Senate Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock

