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June 12, 2015

The Honorable Susan Bonilla, Chair  
Assembly Business and Professions Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 383  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 590 (Stone), as amended April 22, 2015**  
**Hearing: June 16, 2015 Assembly Business and Professions Committee**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

The University of California (UC) is very pleased to support SB 590, a bill introduced by Senator Stone. This bill amends the Business and Professions Code and clarifies the means by which intern pharmacist applicants for licensure can provide pharmacy practice experience to the California Board of Pharmacy (Board).

The UC system has 17 health professional schools and five academic medical centers located at the Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco campuses, collectively known as UC Health. Included in UC Health are two nationally ranked pharmacy schools; the UCSF Pharmacy School and the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Existing Pharmacy Law in California establishes the requirements for applicants, including the number of pharmacy practice hours that must be earned and prescribes the acceptable methods to document an applicant's experience. As you are aware, California is one of only a handful of states that require attestation for each of the 1,500 required hours associated with internship.

Out-of-state graduates pursuing a license to practice as a pharmacist in California simply need to inform the Board that they graduated from an accredited school of pharmacy (i.e., no requirement for the attestations for intern hours). We believe that the process should be the same for graduates of any accredited school of pharmacy, regardless of whether it is located in California or in another state.

Furthermore, the attestation required for California graduates is labor-intensive for the interns, the supervising pharmacists, as well as the Board. All schools of pharmacy recognized by the Board must meet the same national standards of curriculum. The language proposed in SB 590

The Honorable Susan Bonilla

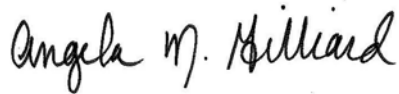
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does not change the number of practice hours required by an intern pharmacist – which still remains 1,500 hours. It simply allows graduation from an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-approved program, effective January 1, 2016, to be sufficient documentation to satisfy the required 1,500 hours of pharmacy practice experience.

We appreciate Senator Stone's leadership on this important measure and the support of the pharmacy profession in California. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-9924 if you have any questions, or need assistance from the University on this issue.

Sincerely,

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

Angela Gilliard, JD  
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Jeff Stone  
Vice Chair and Members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee  
President Janet Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President John Stobo  
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez