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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

March 24, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 147 (Dababneh), as amended March 16, 2015**  
**Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 25, 2015**  
**Position: OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Gomez:

Regretfully, I am writing to inform you that the University of California (UC) opposes AB 147, which would require UC and other postsecondary educational institutions to offer dogs or cats to an animal adoption organization or animal rescue organization after the completion of testing or research, provided that an animal's destruction is not required and the institution's existing procedures for adopting the animal have not resulted in an adoption.

Though we appreciate that the author has taken amendments to the bill which will allow institutions to continue utilizing our internal adoption programs, we remain concerned as the measure continues to acknowledge a statutory role for animal rescue groups such as the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP, the bill's sponsor) that are unaccountable to California's taxpayers – and whose primary goal is to distract and disrupt appropriate University teaching and research activities on campus.

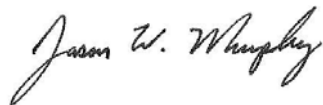
For example, the sponsors of AB 147 have just recently launched a fundraising effort called the "*Identity Campaign*." Through this campaign, the BFP intends to provide supporters who agree to "adopt" an animal currently in a public university's possession with individual identification numbers - and encourage supporters to utilize public records requests to gather veterinary records, health reports, and daily care logs for these animals they have *symbolically* adopted. We firmly believe that if this bill were passed, AB 147 will result in a significant increase in California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests due to the statutory link AB 147 creates between the sponsor's animal rescue efforts and the research and teaching activities conducted at UC and other public institutions.

Specifically, pursuant to the sponsor's new "*Identity Campaign*," the University estimates \$258,000 in additional staff costs per year. This cost is based on conservative estimates of the number of hours required to complete each CPRA request, the estimated number of dogs being used for research or teaching purposes systemwide, the estimated number of requests a BFP supporter may file for an "adopted" animal in a year and the hourly cost of the UC staff who must collect and compile the requested records. Requests such as those encouraged by BFP "*Identity Campaign*" burden the University's system and diminish the ability of the University to respond to legitimate record requests from the media and Legislature.

The University of California is committed to the responsible and humane care of our research animals, and all research involving animals at UC is closely monitored and subject to a number of federal laws and guidelines. UC remains committed to solutions for adoptable research animals that offer the best opportunity for placement in stable and loving homes – but we believe passionately that our existing guidelines and campus direct adoption programs offer the best chance for that outcome. Therefore, due to the costs associated with the increasing number of CPRA requests from the bill's sponsor, and concerns about the motives of the Beagle Freedom Project, the University of California must respectfully oppose AB 147.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have any questions regarding the University's position on AB 147, please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,



Jason Murphy  
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Dababneh  
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee  
President Janet Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock