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April 18, 2016

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

RE: AB 1823 (Bonilla), as amended April 12, 2016
Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on
April 19, 2016
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Medina:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 1823 as proposed with amendments. The University of California has worked diligently with the author's office on a set of amendments we believe will enable the UC to establish the California Cancer Clinical Trials Program.

The goal of the California Cancer Clinical Trials Program aligns with UC's mission of public service. UC will establish a board consisting of at least five members that will be representative of the expertise needed to administer grants to organizations who will provide support to low and moderate income people in need of financial support for ancillary costs in order to participate in cancer clinical trials.

According to a recent study, projected cases of all invasive cancers in the United States are expected to increase by the year 2030. The increase in incidences of cancer will be higher in non-white populations. Diverse patient participation in a clinical trial depends, in part, on whether a participant can afford ancillary costs like transportation, childcare, or lodging during the course of his or her treatment. SB 1823 provides a mechanism to assist patients when they are most vulnerable and in need of assistance when connecting to life saving therapies through cancer clinical trials.

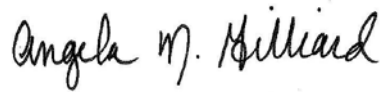
The participation rates of underserved communities in UC cancer center clinical trials far exceed the national rate of participation of three to four percent. For example, the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center reports 13.8 percent African American, 15.0 Asian Pacific Islander, and 15.1% Latino participation rate in Cancer Clinical trials. Other UC cancer centers report similar rates of participation. Although UC participation rates are higher than the national

average, UC believes more can be done to assist patients to connect and maintain participation in lifesaving therapies in clinical trials. When patients are enrolled in clinical trials they live longer, and receive better care than non-participants.

We believe SB 1823 will increase participation rates in cancer clinical trials for California patients and we applaud the author's leadership on this issue.

As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

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: Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom
Executive Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
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