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May 10, 2016

The Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1273 (Moorlach) – as amended on April 29, 2016
Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on May 16, 2016
Position: Support

Dear Chair Wood;

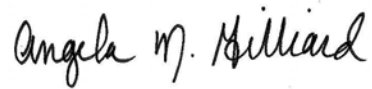
The University of California (UC) is pleased to support SB 1273, which will clarify that the colocation of voluntary and involuntary services at mental health facilities does not preclude the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) monies for crisis stabilization services. This clarification is important so that MHSA funds can be used to maximize county resources to treat people in crisis.

More than two million adults—about 8% of the population—are affected by potentially disabling mental illnesses every year in California. The MHSA has been effective in supporting a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, and outpatient treatment, as well as the necessary infrastructure, technology, and enhancement of the mental health workforce to effectively support this system. However, many hospitals across California, including UC hospitals, are still seeing increases in emergency room visits related to mental health crises.

The clarity provided by SB 1273 will ensure that scarce mental health resource dollars are used to efficiently and appropriately deliver services away from the chaotic, stressful emergency room environment.

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 cursive script that reads "Angela M. Gilliard".

Angela M. Gilliard, JD
Legislative Director

cc: Senator John M.W. Moorlach
Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Health Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President & CFO Nathan Brostrom
Executive Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez