



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NELSON PEACOCK

Senior Vice President – Government Relations

Office of State Governmental Relations

1130 K Street, Suite 340

Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 445-9924

Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

April 14, 2016

Senator Robert Hertzberg, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 1476 (Senate Governance & Finance Committee), as proposed to be amended
Scheduled for hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee
on April 20, 2016
Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

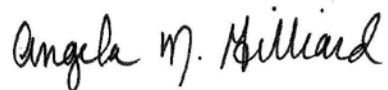
The University of California (UC) supports SB 1476 as proposed to be amended. SB 1476 as proposed would extend the sunset dates of the California Breast Cancer Research Fund (CBCRF) and the California Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) for seven years and maintain the \$250,000 minimum.

Existing state law allows taxpayers to contribute money to voluntary contribution funds, also referred to as “tax check-offs”—to CBCRF and the CCRF from their state income tax return form. The CBCRF and CCRF are administered by the California Breast Cancer Research Program and the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program in the University of California Office of the President. Approximately 30,000 individuals donate annually to each fund. Each fund provides approximately \$400K annually, which the programs use to support high-impact research. The funding collected through these tax check off funds have supported research on topics such as identifying environmental factors that may cause breast cancer. The cancer research funds have supported lung cancer research, in particular new technologies for early detection and innovative strategies for reducing the cancer burden in disproportionately impacted communities.

Extending the sunset on these programs from five years to seven years will reduce the legislative and administrative burdens on these programs, allowing the programs to focus on the rigorous grant awarding process that results in projects that will make the strongest impact on health outcomes in California. Maintaining the minimum at \$250,000 ensures the relevance of the funds while avoiding threats to their longevity by imposing an ever-increasing benchmark. The proposed changes will also ensure transparency and accountability of the grant awarding process and in communicating the impact of the awarded grants.

Thank you for extending the sunset and maintaining the minimum threshold of \$250,000 for these programs. Your leadership on this issue will ensure program efficiencies and allow the CCRF and CCBRF to continue to administer program priorities of tax payers.

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: Vice Chair and Members, Senate Governance & Finance 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