



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

September 25, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 880 (Ridley-Thomas) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The University of California (UC) requests your signature on AB 880 (Ridley-Thomas), which amends the Business and Professions Code to allow final year dental students, enrolled in a California dental school, to volunteer at sponsored events to treat patients under faculty supervision.

Oral health is integral to general health and is essential to the overall health and wellbeing of all individuals, from kids to seniors. The early identification of oral disease may contribute to the early diagnosis and treatment for a number of systemic diseases. Unfortunately, nearly 10 million Californians — including low-income children, the elderly and people with disabilities — face barriers to accessing the dental care they need. Free health care and dental clinics provide an important resource for many individuals in underserved communities to access dental care.

UC operates the largest health sciences system in the nation. Collectively referred to as UC Health, this system includes 17 health professional schools on seven UC campuses, and 11 hospitals operated by the UC medical centers, including the UCLA School of Dentistry and the UCSF School of Dentistry.

In total, there are currently six dental schools in the state approved by the Dental Board of California. Under existing law, dental students at these schools are able to treat patients, under supervision, in clinics on the dental school campus. This provides valuable hand-on experience in the professional training of these students. However, at present, students are unable to volunteer their services at free health and dental events in the community. This bill proposes that these same students, in their final year of school, should be allowed to treat similar patients at a free sponsored event (i.e., health fair) under the supervision of a licensed dentist with a faculty

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appointment. We believe our senior dental students are capable and qualified for this, and we welcome the change proposed in this bill to expand access to oral health care services.

On behalf of our two schools of dentistry, we thank Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas for his leadership on this issue. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-9924 if I can provide additional information or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Juarez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Juarez

Associate Vice President and Director

cc: Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
President Janet Napolitano
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Executive Vice President John D. Stobo, MD