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Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

September 12, 2016

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

***RE: SB 1476 (Senate Governance and Finance Committee) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE***

Dear Governor Brown:

The University of California (UC) requests your signature on SB 1476 (Senate Governance and Finance Committee), which would establish general requirements for all new or extended voluntary tax contribution funds. Specifically, this bill provides for a seven year extension on sunset dates and establishes a \$250,000 minimum contribution benchmark level.

The University of California administers the California Breast Cancer Research Fund (CBCRF) and the California Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) which receives funding from the voluntary contributions funds, also referred to as “tax check-offs.” Approximately 30,000 individuals donate annually to the CBCRF and the CCRF. 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, as well as exploring the potential of natural products in preventing and treating 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.

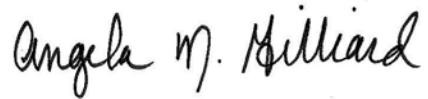
Extending the sunset on these programs from five years to seven years will reduce the legislative and administrative burdens on these programs, allowing the programs to focus on the rigorous awarding process that result in projects that will make the strongest impact on health outcomes in California. Maintaining the minimum at \$250,000 instead of the ever increasing benchmarks will also help to stabilize programs like the CBCRF and CCRF.

In conclusion, we believe SB 1476 benefits model programs like the CBCRF and the CCRF, and we thank the Senate Governance and Finance Committee for its leadership on this issue. The CBCRF and the CCRF are due to sunset next year, and this change in law will pave the way for renewal for these programs, as well as other valuable programs.

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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: Senator Robert Hertzberg  
President Janet Napolitano  
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez