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March 21, 2017

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

RE: AB 207 (Arambula), as amended February 22, 2017
Set for hearing in Assembly Higher Education Committee on March 28, 2017
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Medina:

The University of California (UC) regrets to inform you that we are opposed to Assembly Bill (AB) 207, which would amend California's Master Plan for Higher Education Act to authorize California State University (CSU), Fresno, to establish a medical school, "as amended on February 22, 2017, AB 207 would grant authority to allow CSU Fresno to award the doctor of medicine (MD) degree. The measure states that "the doctor of medicine degree offered by the California State University, Fresno, shall be distinguished from the doctoral degrees offered by the University of California." It also states that each student enrolled in the proposed program be charged fees that are no higher than the rate charged for students in state-supported doctor of medicine programs at the University of California, and that CSU shall provide any start-up funding from within existing budgets for academic program support.

While UC recognizes the need for effective, new strategies to address the shortages of physicians in California, especially in underserved communities, we are opposed to this measure for a number of reasons.

California's Master Plan for Higher Education sets forth the missions and functions of California's segments of higher education with medical education delegated to the University of California. This delegation appropriately recognizes the substantial resources and infrastructure required to meet national standards for accreditation of U.S. allopathic (MD-granting) medical schools.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) establishes requirements for accreditation of medical education programs leading to the MD degree in the United States and Canada. LCME accreditation is a process of quality assurance that determines whether the medical education program meets established national standards. To achieve and maintain

accreditation, a medical education program leading to the MD degree in the US and Canada must meet LCME accreditation standards. Significant start-up, infrastructure, and ongoing operational support for physical and human resources are required to meet and maintain LCME accreditation.

UC has extensive experience managing and delivering high-quality medical education through the experiences of our six UC medical schools. For more than 35 years, UC Riverside (UCR) operated in partnership with the UCLA School of Medicine before it became a full LCME medical school. We successfully faced many challenges and learned many lessons in connection with the development and launch of the UC Riverside School of Medicine, which was the first new public medical school in California in more than 40 years. The experience with the UCR School of Medicine underscores the high threshold of resources and commitment required to achieve LCME approval.

While there are compelling health workforce needs in many areas of the state, including the Central Valley, creating a new medical school will require a huge investment of new resources, which would not necessarily meet the goals of producing more physicians for the region. In fact, once students finish medical school and graduate, they enter graduate medical education (GME) or residency training. This often requires moving to other areas of the state or to other states altogether. Medical school graduates cannot practice until they have a license and complete residency. Following a typical four-year medical school education, resident physicians typically spend three to seven years completing a specialty-specific residency program (and potentially subspecialty training thereafter). It can thus take 11 years or more beyond high school to educate physicians before they can practice in California. However, within this context, it is important to emphasize that the most important predictor of where physicians will ultimately practice is where they complete their residency training.

UCSF-Fresno has been training resident physicians in Fresno for over 40 years. Since its establishment in 1975, UCSF-Fresno has become the Valley's largest physician training program, educating more than 300 residents and fellows and 350 medical students on a rotating basis each year. Current programs include eight medical specialties, one dental residency and 17 subspecialties. All residency positions are filled each year and more than half of the graduates remain in the Central Valley. It is our understanding that discussions are also actively underway about the potential for expansion of UCSF-Fresno GME programs in the near term.

In tandem with the UCSF-Fresno GME programs, UC medical schools at Davis and at San Francisco also send UC medical students to complete clinical clerkships at UCSF-Fresno. In fact, a dedicated UC medical education program for the San Joaquin Valley admitted its first medical students in 2011 and is now in the process of expanding enrollment over the next several years to a total of 48 students. This program is referred to and recognized by the LCME as the UC Davis-UCSF-Fresno San Joaquin Valley program in medical education.

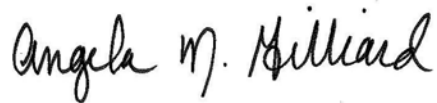
UC is continuing to leverage and build upon existing UC medical education programs in the Central Valley. In fact, UC is currently exploring and identifying specific resources needed to substantially expand enrollment in the San Joaquin Valley-focused program. In addition to our

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ongoing efforts in medical education, and at President Napolitano's direction, we are also working to provide additional information and recommendations for expanding access to care in the Central Valley – ranging from expansion of GME and telemedicine, to potential new partnerships with California's community clinics.

Because the bill is inconsistent with the Master Plan and would not address health care shortages in the region, the University must oppose AB 207. Should you have any questions about our position, we would be pleased to speak with you. Please to 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 Arambula
Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President and CFO Nathan Brostrom
Executive Vice President John Stobo
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Associate Vice President Cathryn Nation
Interim Director Kieran Flaherty