

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2008

Mr. Richard Blum
Chairman, University of California
Board of Regents
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Regent Blum and Members of the Board:

As Members of Congress representing districts across the State of California, we are writing to first, commend the University of California on its efforts to address the well documented need for health professionals across the state as part of the university's long-range planning.

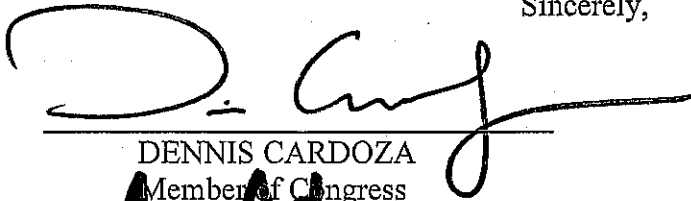
We support the University of California's Health Sciences Advisory Council recommendation to increase MD student enrollments by 34 percent between 2005 and 2020. We believe that the most effective action the Board can take in meeting this goal is to develop medical schools at UC Riverside and UC Merced. We understand that UC Riverside's is expected to seek Regents' approval within the next few months to establish a medical school and that UC Merced, likewise, will be seeking approval for continued planning of its medical school. While the two campuses are at varying stages in the process, it should be noted that both medical schools are necessary and must be developed in parallel to begin addressing the projected critical need for physicians statewide.

The Inland Empire and the San Joaquin Valley have similar demographics and are two of the fastest growing regions in California, with population growth rates expected to be twice that of the rest of the state. The two regions also have large underserved populations that have historically lagged behind other parts of the state in terms of health services. For example, in the San Joaquin Valley, there are 31 percent fewer primary care physicians and 51 percent fewer specialists than California as a whole. A study released on April 2, 2008 by the Center for California Health Workforce Studies at the University of California-San Francisco shows that California's practicing physicians do not reflect the state's diversity. One of the goals of the proposed UC Merced medical school is to train physicians who are competent in multi-cultural medicine and who represent the diversity of California and the Central Valley.

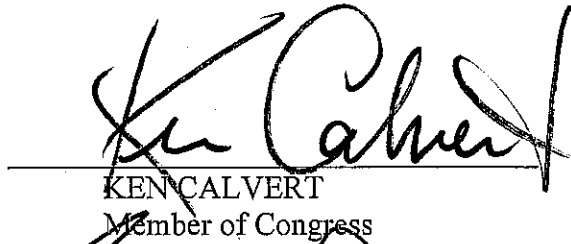
Both areas also fall behind other regions of the state in educational attainment levels, virtually all economic indicators, and, most importantly, access to health care, particularly medical specialists. As a public institution, the University of California has an obligation to serve all regions of the state equitably and must not leave these areas behind. California's future depends on the health and well-being of all of its regions. While we are focusing today on just these two areas, the impact of two new medical schools will be felt statewide in terms of economic benefit and overall welfare of millions of the state's citizens.

Therefore, we encourage the Board of Regents to be steadfast in its mission of teaching, research and public service by supporting the efforts of UC Merced and UC Riverside to continue with their on-going plans to help address this very important public and health policy need for California. We pledge to work along side you, the university leadership, and our state representatives in this endeavor.

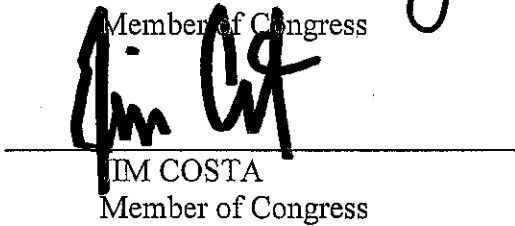
Sincerely,



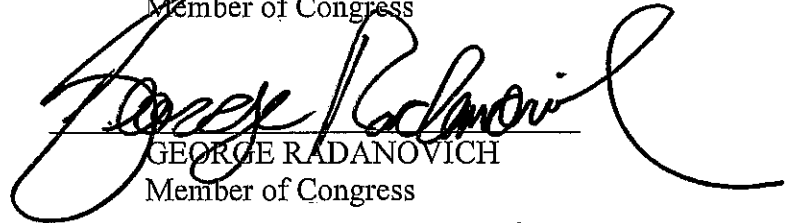
DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress




KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



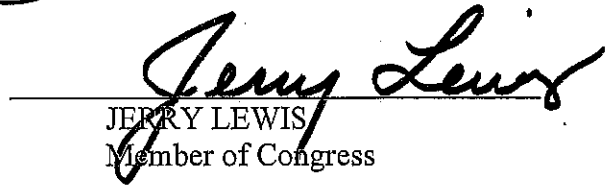
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



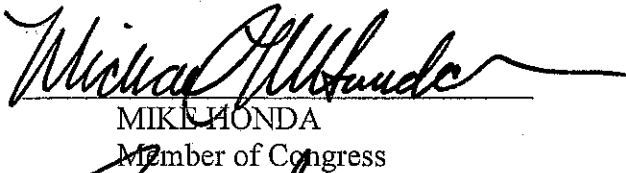
GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress



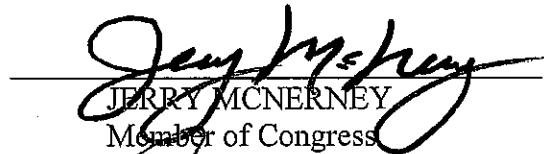
DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



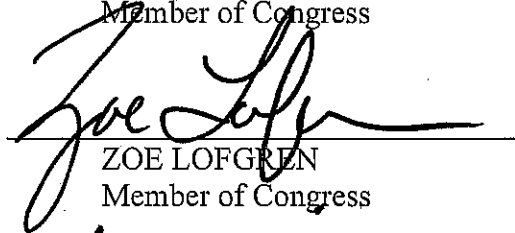
JERRY LEWIS
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MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress



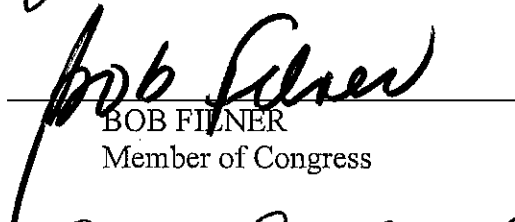
JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



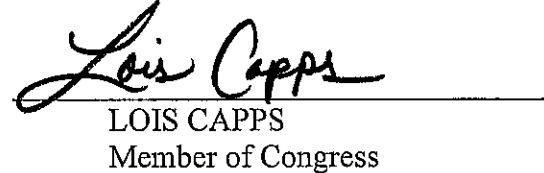
ZOE LOFGREN
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