

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2008

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

Dear Regent Blum and Members of the Board:

As Members of Congress representing the Inland Empire region of California, we are writing to express our support for the UC Riverside School of Medicine proposal before you this July.

Serious physician shortfalls are projected at the national, state and regional level with California experiencing among the greatest needs. Within the state, Inland Southern California is one of the regions hardest hit. Currently, Inland Southern California counties—Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial—have fewer than 60 general physicians per 100,000 population. Exacerbating the problem, nearly 40 percent of the region's current physicians are of retirement age.

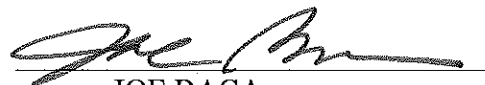
The UC Riverside School of Medicine is planned to open in fall 2012 with an initial class of 50 medical students. When fully opened, the medical school will enroll a total of 400 medical students, 160 graduate students and 160 residents. The school will focus research efforts on the medical and health needs of residents in the Inland Southern California region.

In the face of a potentially critical physician shortage in the Inland Empire, it is imperative that institutions are established which would ensure a reliable supply of physicians who are familiar with the Inland Southern California region and its health care needs. We are encouraged by the planning and research that has gone into the plans for the UC Riverside School of Medicine and, we support your approval of the proposal.

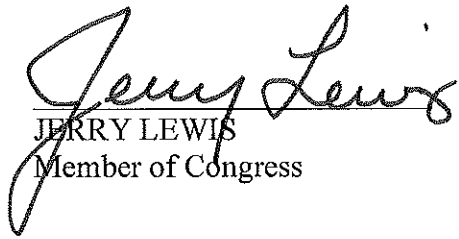
Sincerely,

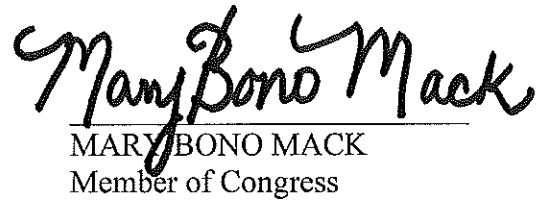


KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress



JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

  
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