



February 3, 2009

Phyllis A. Guze, M.D.  
School of Medicine Planning Office  
University of California  
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. Guze:

Riverside Community Hospital strongly supports the medical school initiative at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Inland Southern California, one of the most rapidly growing regions in the state, is facing a physician shortage of crisis proportion. The number of practicing physicians per 100,000 persons in the region is little more than half that of the statewide average and, by 2015, the doctor shortfall could be as high as 53 percent. The region trails much of the state in several key health indicators, such as high incidence of coronary heart disease and diabetes, and in infant mortality.

As the regional medical center for the Inland Empire, Riverside Community Hospital is dedicated to providing quality healthcare to all of the citizens in this area. We envision a partnership with the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine which will provide the physicians we desperately need, bring growth to the area, create new industries and jobs, and most importantly, improve the healthcare of those we are committed to serve. We pledge our support to achieve this goal for our community.

UCR's innovative vision for the medical school -- focused squarely on regional healthcare needs and building on its existing highly praised medical education program -- has been approved by the University of California Board of Regents. A public investment is now needed to launch the medical school so that we can begin to confront the physician shortage and thereby expand access to healthcare from our currently underserved population. We call upon the State of California to restore funding for UCR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Rembis', is written over a faint, circular embossed seal or watermark.

Michael A. Rembis  
President and CEO