



Promoting Your Health

SINCE 1973

January 28, 2009

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

Dear Dr. Guze:

Riverside Community Health Foundation 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 a 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.

UCR's innovative vision for the medical school, building on its existing and highly praised medical education program, focuses on meeting regional health care needs by expanding and diversifying the physician workforce and developing research and health care delivery programs to improve the health of underserved populations. The University of California Board of Regents has approved establishment of the medical school. A public investment is now needed so that we can begin to confront the physician shortage and thereby expand access to health care for our currently underserved population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damon Castillo".

Dr. Damon Castillo, Chair
Board of Directors