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November 10, 2006

Chancellor France Cordova
University of California, Riverside
4108 Hinderaker Hall
Riverside, CA 92521

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Chancellor Cordova,

The African American Health Institute of San Bernardino County (AAHI-SBC) is very supportive of the University of California, Riverside's (UCR) vision to create a public medical school. We applaud your efforts for this ambitious undertaking. As expressed in your community dialogue with the general public regarding your plans, the Black community is poised and ready to assist you in such a challenging endeavor.

During the AAHI countywide health planning project, Black residents expressed the desire to have more health professionals that are responsive to and understood their health needs. We are all keenly aware of the desperate need for more ethnic healthcare providers in the Inland Empire, especially Black physicians. As well as the needs to attract, retain, and graduate Black, Latino, and Native American students to work in the healthcare field. Your proposed medical school provides the opportunity to create a culturally responsive academic environment that will train future physicians, researchers, and allied health professionals to fill this void in the Inland Empire. Chancellor Cordova you have demonstrated a sincere willingness to not only listen to the suggestions of the Black and underserved communities but also to respond appropriately to the feedback we have shared with you and your staff regarding our cultural needs. Thank you.

Your vision for a cutting edge public medical school that embraces diversity is timely and long overdue for the Inland Empire. We the collaborative partners of the AAHI-SBC welcome the opportunity to work more closely with you and your staff in the development of what promises to be a model medical school that will train health professionals to work with poor and underserved communities. We wholeheartedly offer this letter of support.

Best regards,

V. Diane Woods, Dr.P.H., M.S.N., R.N.
President and CEO