



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
FAMILY
PHYSICIANS

November 13, 2006

Ms. Diane James
Executive Director
Health Sciences Initiative
University of California Riverside
1201 University Avenue, Suite 201
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Ms. James:

The Board of Directors of the California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) met on Saturday, November 11, 2006 in Los Angeles and considered the request for endorsement of a new medical school at University of California Riverside (UCR).

I am pleased to inform you the Board voted to endorse development of a new medical school at UCR. CAFP supports the concept that California should be growing more of its own medical school and residency graduates in order to meet both current and projected demand for primary care and subspecialist physicians in our state.

As you know, CAFP has been a leading advocate for ensuring a 50:50 ratio of primary care to subspecialist residency graduates within the UC system – a ratio enjoyed in many developed countries with better health status than our own at lower cost, per the agreement between the University of California and the State of California in the historic Memorandum of Understanding in effect more than 10 years now. We realize that medical students' choice of residency specialty is affected by many factors, including practice lifestyle and income, beyond the control of the medical education system. We also believe, however, that medical schools can undertake many efforts to support students' interest in primary care specialties, including increased primary care faculty representation on admissions committees (at a minimum achieving the recommended ratio of primary care physicians to subspecialist graduates of 50:50), appropriate role modeling on the faculty, positive attitudes evinced toward primary care specialties, etc.

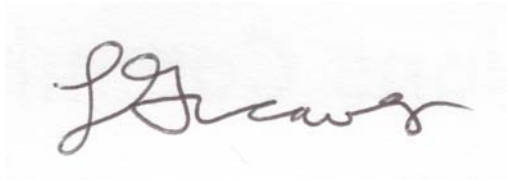
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Studies indicate that the mix of the provider workforce may have a negative impact on both health care spending and quality of care – “States with more general practitioners use more effective care and have lower spending, while those with more specialists have higher costs and lower quality.” (Balcker and Chandra. “Medicare Spending, The Physician Workforce, and Beneficiaries’ Quality of Care, *Health Affairs*, April 7, 2004, W4-184-197.)

We strongly urge that the new medical school at UCR emphasize and support the essential supply of primary care physicians to meet the health care needs of the Inland Empire and all of California. CAFP stands ready to offer any assistance possible to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bo Greaves", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Bo Greaves, MD
President