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Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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To the Board of Regents, University of California,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board of Regents on the matter of a Medical school at UC Riverside. I would much prefer to be here in person, but prior commitments make that impossible. I do, however, want to express my unqualified support for the proposal.

I spent the bulk of my professional career in academic medicine and am well aware of the many issues that impact the establishment of a publicly funded professional school; be it Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Nursing, or Pharmacy. Ultimately, the mission of the school and its impact on the local and state communities must be mutually beneficial. In my opinion, this is most definitely the case with a medical school at Riverside. Health science research, medical education, and the provision of health care services within the context of the educational process define the mission of the school and, as such, address major needs of the region and the state. UCR has the most diverse student body within the UC system. It is not unreasonable to assume the same will prove true within its medical school. UC system-wide medical school graduation numbers have not changed significantly in the past two decades, while the population of our state has exploded. Any opportunity to address these issues should be viewed in a favorable light.

While serving on the Board of Regents as Alumni Regent, I had the good fortune to chair the Committee on Health Sciences, providing insight into the five UC Medical Centers, including my alma mater, UCSF, and UCSD, where I currently hold a clinical faculty appointment. Each contributes to the greatness of medical education within the UC system, and to its reputation for excellence, both nationally and internationally. The addition of a medical school at UCR has the potential to complement that greatness through its location, its unique status within the UC system, and by its ability to address the state's need for additional physicians.

Although I am not privy to the financial considerations, I have assumed that this issue will be addressed to the satisfaction of all relevant parties concerned.

The opportunity is upon you, the need is real, and the commitment by UCR is mature and well thought out. It seems the time is right to move forward, by your approval of the proposal. I regret that I am not present to answer any questions. However, those that are present from UCR are far more capable than I to respond.

Thank you.

