

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

March 14, 2013

Senator Marty Block, Chair  
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review, Subcommittee 1 on Education  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Augmentation for the University of California (UC) Riverside  
School of Medicine

Dear Mr. Chair and members of the Committee:

We respectfully request an annual augmentation of \$15 million to the University of California's budget to fund the UC Riverside School of Medicine. The medical school is critical to the effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act in our region.

Inland Southern California has one of the most severe shortages of primary care physicians in the nation. According to the California HealthCare Foundation, Riverside County is currently the only county in the state of more than 1 million people to have fewer than 100 MDs per 100,000 people.

Both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties only have 36 and 44 primary care MD physicians per 100,000, far below the federal recommended ratio of 60 to 80. This shortage will only exacerbate with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act when an estimated 500,000 additional patients receiving health care coverage are expected.

The UC Riverside School of Medicine is the key component to begin addressing the severe shortage of primary care physicians in our region. Our communities pledged \$10 million per year for ten years with the belief that the state support is on the way. Some of these funds are subject to a three-year or five-year review and, **without state support, there is an imminent danger these funds will be withdrawn jeopardizing the School of Medicine's accreditation** when it is up for review before the Licensing Committee on Medical Education in 2014.

The UC Riverside's history in medical education dates to 1974, when the UCR/UCLA Program in Biomedical Sciences was established. Today, approximately 700 students who began the first two years of their medical education at UCR have received their M.D. degrees from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The request before

you today would fund the curricula, courses, faculty, and clinical rotations for students in year 3 and 4.

To meet the needs of our rapidly growing, underserved region, we respectfully request for an annual augmentation of \$15 million in the UC budget for the UC Riverside School of Medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Roth', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Richard Roth,  
Senate District 31

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jose Medina', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Assemblymember Jose Medina  
Assembly District 61

cc: Senator Rod Wright  
Senator Mark Wyland