

March 16, 2020

Janet Napolitano
President
University of California
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Oakland, CA 94607
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University of California Board of Regents
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
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Via e-mail and U.S. Mail

RE: UC's adoption of affiliation guidelines

Dear President Napolitano and members of the Board of Regents:

As generous supporters of the University, we write to express our profound hope that, in adopting guidelines governing affiliations with outside health entities, UC will draw a bright line to ensure that the care provided by its clinicians and to its patients under any affiliation is not restricted by religion. We are concerned that Option 1 presented in the report by the UC Working Group on Comprehensive Access would continue to permit UC to engage in the type of problematic affiliation that has come to light over the past year, in which UC has agreed to abide by religious rules established by Catholic bishops that deny evidence-based reproductive healthcare and discriminate against transgender patients.

We were optimistic that, after UCSF decided to abandon its plans for an extensive affiliation with Dignity Health last year, UC would direct its focus to developing future partnerships that would be grounded in UC's values of unbiased, science-based health care and would serve California's diverse communities' needs for comprehensive care, including reproductive and LGBTQ-inclusive care. It is distressing to observe that, instead, Option 1 in the report seeks to institutionalize throughout the UC system relationships in which UC providers would continue to be subject to Catholic hospital policies. We believe these arrangements would have a devastating and long-lasting impact on the quality of healthcare in California.

UC has been on the front lines of reproductive health research and practice for decades. UCSF's Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health has been a standard-bearer in the reproductive health field, establishing groundbreaking training programs for providers and conducting research that has been instrumental in promoting

comprehensive reproductive health care across the United States and the world. UC's faculty and staff have played a critical role in providing patient-centered, evidence-based care in its hospitals. At a time when access to abortion is being severely limited across the country, UC has proudly affirmed that this element of reproductive health care is essential and non-negotiable. These are the values, commitment, and track record that have brought us all, as funders, to support the work of UC, including Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) and the larger Bixby Center, and other institutions in the UC system. Over the past five years, our combined philanthropic giving to the UC system has been in excess of \$71 million.

As funders, our focus is on ensuring meaningful access to healthcare for the most marginalized in our society. To achieve this, we believe it is critical to expand access not just to care but to quality, comprehensive care for those who most need it. We reject the notion that reproductive health care and inclusive care for LGBTQ people can be removed from this equation or addressed through elaborate work-arounds, and we are astonished that UC, of all institutions, would be suggesting such a thing. For this reason, we support "Option 2" as written by the UC faculty members on the working group who believe that UC's values and policies stand in opposition to affiliation with discriminatory entities.

While the proponents of Option 1 may be focused on what the University would gain, in terms of additional beds and income, if Option 1 were to be adopted, we sincerely hope that you, as leaders of the UC system, are also cognizant of what UC might lose, in terms of its reputation, respect, and even funding. We certainly know that it will cause our institutions to question our relationship to the University.

Sincerely,

Hilary Bates, The BaSe Family Fund
Julie Chaiken, The Donald and Carole Chaiken Foundation
Dagmar Dolby, Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund
Debbie Findling, EdD, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund
Karen Grove, Grove Foundation
Leslie Katz
Judy Kleinberg
Audrey Irmis
Michelle Mercer and Bruce Golden
Lisa Lindelef
Ruth Shaber, MD, Tara Health Foundation
Todd Werby and Manola Greene Fund
Kenneth Werner & Noreen Bagley