Members of the California Delegation

The federal government is a critical and valued partner in helping the University of California to achieve its historic mission of teaching, research, and public service. Federal funds support scientific research grants, need-based student financial aid, and health education, training and clinical care programs. With sequestration scheduled for implementation on March 1, I ask for your redoubled efforts in working with your Congressional colleagues and the Administration to reach agreement to avoid these cuts that will have a significant impact on UC students and researchers.

I attach for your information a fact sheet on the impact of sequestration across the University of California system.

UC is California’s third-largest employer, a leader in education, research, and health care, and a strong economic engine for the state and the nation. The federal government is the University’s single largest source of support for competitive research, accounting for more than half of UC’s research expenditures. Federal funding to the University’s research enterprise supports more than 14,500 full-time jobs across California. Federal funds from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, NASA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USDA, and the Department of Energy, among others, support UC researchers who are actively engaged in working to solve many of our nation’s most difficult scientific, technological and healthcare challenges. Sequestration will reduce funding for each of these key federal agencies, jeopardizing jobs and advances in research.

UC students receive more than $1 billion in federal financial aid. This funding is critical to ensuring that all Californians have access to higher education regardless of income. While Pell Grants are protected from sequestration in fiscal year 2013, important financial aid programs including Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study, TRIO and GEAR UP will be cut under sequestration. UC believes that parents and students must have the necessary financial information they need to make sound decisions about their educational future, but the unstable budget situation at the federal level makes this extremely difficult.

In addition, while Medicaid is exempt from sequestration, Medicare program spending would be cut by 2 percent per year between FYs 2013 and 2021. Cuts of this magnitude to the Medicare program would have a negative impact on the University’s academic
medical centers, faculty physicians, biomedical researchers, medical students and, ultimately, the communities and patients we serve.

The University of California urges the Congress and the President to reach an agreement that will stop the sequester and ensure that federal research and educational funding is not indiscriminately harmed. As our nation’s economy recovers, we must not cut funding to the education and research programs that are moving California and our nation forward.

If you have questions about the sequester’s impact on the University of California, please get in touch with Gary Falle, Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations. He can be reached by email at Gary.Falle@ucdc.edu or by telephone at (202) 974-6319.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President

Attachment

cc: Provost Aimée Dorr
    Executive Vice President Peter Taylor
    Senior Vice President Dan Dooley
    Associate Vice President Gary Falle