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UnitedWayOC.org

January 14, 2021

Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Board of Regents,

On behalf of the Orange County United Way, I'm writing to express my unreserved support for the University of California, Irvine's plans to build a new medical center. Put simply, the project will add what we don't have, and will make our community healthier and stronger. This is a monumental opportunity for the people we serve in Orange County, and we cannot emphasize enough how enthusiastic we are to see this come to fruition.

As the operator of the region's only teaching hospital, the health system of the University of California, Irvine is already indispensable to the county's increasingly diverse 3.3 million residents. Its hospital has our county's only Level I trauma center and has a nationally recognized cancer center on top of primary and specialty care centers throughout the region.

The proposed UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport would expand and enhance its health network with a new medical center on the northern edge of its Irvine campus. The new medical center will include a 144-bed acute care hospital focused on oncology, neurosciences, orthopedics, and spine and digestive health, along with emergency services. Joining the hospital will be the UCI Health Center for Advanced Care, home to children's specialties and medical offices. Together, this world-class academic health center will span more than 700,000 square feet—a massive, health care footprint representing a big step forward for Orange County.

There are other arguments in favor of approving UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport, and I'm sure you're aware of each and every one of them: new jobs, new economic opportunities for local businesses, enhancements to the parklike grounds, and protections for the San Joaquin Marsh. But for us, the project comes down to this: The UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport will improve the health and wellbeing of the people we serve in Orange County.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan B. Parks".

Susan B. Parks
President & CEO