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January 14, 2021

University of California Regents
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear University of California Board of Regents,

The Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, representing the interests of Orange County's 30,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, is writing in support of the approval of the UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport. With the growth of population in Orange County it is essential that our business owners and residents across Orange County have access to first-class healthcare of which the UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport will deliver.

Our chamber has long been associated with UCI and impressed with the strides the campus has made to support Hispanic students. Achieving Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status and committing to programs such as the Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC), the UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport will be yet another epicenter serving and improving the Latino community.

This new medical center will allow more people in Orange County to have access to the life-enhancing therapies, advanced innovations, leading experts and complex procedures unique to the expertise of UCI. It is also expected to significantly contribute to the health of the local and regional economy by creating upward of 2,500 new construction, healthcare and staffing jobs. It will attract out-of-area healthcare professionals and patients, while providing new vendor and partnership opportunities for Orange County-based businesses. Our membership is most eager to be part of this project.

Please accept our sincere support for the approval of the UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport.

Sincerely,

Reuben D. Franco
President & CEO
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce