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September 25, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 169 (Jackson)—REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The University of California (UC) requests your signature on SB 169 (Jackson). This measure seeks to ensure that University policies and procedures against sexual harassment in California remain strong despite the Department of Education's recent rescission of key guidance in this area and even in the event that federal requirements are further weakened in the future.

Specifically, this bill adds new sections to the Education Code that incorporate key features of the federal guidance that was articulated in a 2011 letter issued by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR), the federal agency that is primarily responsible for enforcing Title IX and its regulations. The Department of Education rescinded that guidance in its letter dated September 22, 2017. SB 169 seeks to codify features of the 2011 letter in the California Education Code, and to direct the State's educational institutions to adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with that guidance.

Notwithstanding the rescission of this important guidance and any further actions that may be forthcoming at the federal level – and the inevitable uncertainty such actions will create for schools about how to continue addressing this difficult issue – the University of California remains fully committed to the goals of eliminating sexual violence and implementing fair processes for responding to complaints. The bill would ensure that all California schools maintain this commitment, and thus we are pleased to support SB 169.

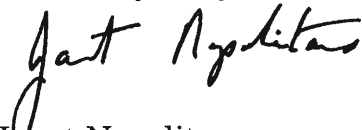
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Indeed, the University has sought to be the national leader in this area and has taken important steps to prevent sexual harassment, including sexual violence, and more effectively respond when it occurs. We have expanded and strengthened prevention education, created a systemwide Title IX office, and developed new policies and procedures that protect the rights of all students and employees. Every campus has increased resources in this area and established both a confidential CARE advocacy office that supports survivors of sexual violence and support services for students accused of sexual misconduct.

Even with the unwelcome changes in federal guidance, the University's commitment to an educational environment free of sexual harassment, including sexual violence, will not falter. UC will continue its work to foster a culture of safety and security on all its campuses.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have any questions regarding the University's position on SB 169, please contact Kieran Flaherty, Associate Vice President and Director of State Governmental Relations, at (916) 445-9924.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano
President

cc: The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson
Executive Vice President and CFO Nathan Brostrom
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty