



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JACKIE SPEIER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
CALIFORNIA-12

March 13, 2010

President Mark Yudoff
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear President Yudoff:

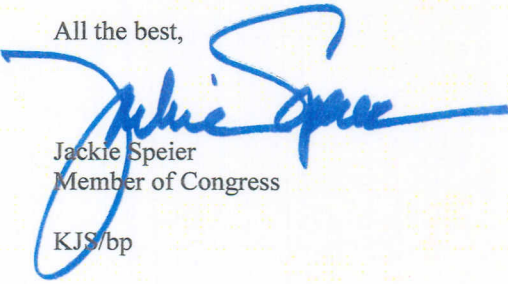
Postdoctoral students have contacted me to indicate their willingness to conclude contract negotiations with the University of California. Few know better than I the importance of the University to the future of California. Throughout my years in the State Legislature, and during my time in Congress, I have consistently argued that investing in the University is a necessity for California's future. Integral to that objective is an investment in postdoctoral students who today earn salaries that make it extremely difficult to survive during their time of contribution to the University and, by extension, to us all. Their benefit package is also inadequate to meet the ordinary needs of a family.

I understand the University's budget problems better than most. However, my understanding is that postdoctoral students are largely paid from federal grants which have provisions for cost of living increases, benefits, etc. I have been supportive of those grants, including those offered through the extraordinary stimulus package that has been supporting the University's expanding research efforts in this past year. Whether it is U.C.'s biotechnology, medical, physics, energy or other research, I have supported the mission of U.C. with votes that create the means toward an end: investing in America's future by investing the University of California. However, I do not vote to support buildings. My votes are an expression of faith in the human genius that resides within those structures. My votes have also been evidence of my belief that science leads us each day toward a better future.

President Yudoff, I respectfully suggest that we cannot make a better future by creating a subcategory of professionals who struggle economically while contributing mightily toward the betterment of us all.

I know that contract negotiations can be difficult. Your task is made easier by the funding provided by Congress. I do not pretend to have your day-to-day responsibilities, or to fully comprehend the range of obligations that must at times keep you up at night. I do know, however, that the effort to create a contract is one that must be made in the interest of the University of California and thus ultimately in the interest of America. Thank you for taking on the difficult job of leading a world-class institution. Leadership has its moments of intense challenge. This is one such moment, and at this point the obligation is to act. I hope that you will do so shortly.

All the best,



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

KJS/bp