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3/7/2024

The Honorable Liz Ortega, Chair
Assembly Labor and Employment Committee
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE ACA 14 (Ortega)

Dear Chair Ortega,

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce would like to express our opposition to ACA 14, as it would undermine the University of California's academic mission and ability to support and drive regional economies across California. The University of California is an essential economic engine for the state, contributing roughly \$82 billion annually to California's economic output. Over a half-million jobs in California are supported by the University, and UC-related spending generates nearly \$12 billion annually in federal, state, and local tax revenues. UC's economic ripple effect is so large that it touches every region in the state.

Specifically, the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce works closely with UCLA and other UC's. The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce's mission is to improve the economic health and vitality of communities on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. We help businesses, residents, and visitors thrive by advocating for responsible public policy, offering networking and community-building opportunities, providing access to business development resources, supporting visitor services across the region, and strengthening our local workforce development pipeline to the benefit of the workforce and employers alike. UCLA and UCSB are both important partners in our efforts to do so.

Our greatest concern is with new provisions relating to contracting out for services. UC is an anchor institution committed to creating new contracting opportunities for small, disadvantaged, women-owned, and minority businesses. These efforts fall within University of California policy that requires contracts to be used only sparingly and as an option of last resort to address temporary or exigent circumstances, but not to displace University employees. Further, UC has engaged in good faith negotiations all year on legislation to codify additional limitations on contracting out. ACA 14 upends all that work and would make it nearly impossible for our members to do any business with the University. We urge you to reject this proposal and vote NO on ACA 14.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce