

## Sample Letters to Legislators – February 2008

### Letter-writing web page intro

Sustained, long-term investments in the University of California are essential to meet the educational demands of our state's growing population, foster statewide economic growth, develop a highly qualified workforce, and improve the quality of life for all Californians.

Now, before state legislators have budget bills in hand, it is important to getting them thinking about the big picture and the top priorities for investing the state's limited budget dollars wisely. Please send your legislators a letter today – feel free to personalize the sample letter -- to voice your support for investing in UC's future.

### CHOICE OF 3 SAMPLE LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS

#### SUBJECT LINE: **Keep the promise of a college education**

I urge you to reaffirm our state's commitment to providing all California residents access to a quality college education. For more than four decades, this commitment has meant greater prosperity for our families and economic growth for our communities. But to sustain the promise of higher education in California, we must invest in our public colleges and universities.

Please make funding for renewing California's "education infrastructure" and expanding student enrollment a top priority in the upcoming budget process. Expanding the state's long-term investment in teaching and research at UC is crucial to grow our economy, protect environmental resources, and ensure the health and prosperity of all Californians.

I know you have many tough choices in allocating our state's limited budget dollars, but investing in UC is a smart choice and one that we need to make now. It's also an investment that will ultimately help us solve many of the other challenges facing California.

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#### SUBJECT LINE: **Invest in UC and California's future**

I am deeply concerned about the lack of adequate long-term funding for the University of California and the state's other public colleges and universities. As you begin thinking about the state budget for the next fiscal year, I urge you to consider the future consequences of under-funding UC upon the state's economy and quality of life for all Californians.

I understand that tough decisions are necessary. As California's population grows, however, these choices become even more important. According to the Department of Finance, from 1984 to 2004, California's population increased 35 percent; and while spending on prisons grew 205%, for example, state funding for higher education grew only 18%. Higher education is the only major part of California's budget that grew more slowly than population. We need to invest more in education now – that will pay big dividends for all Californians.

UC graduates contribute greatly to our state's economic vitality, quality health care and leadership in every walk of life. Increased state investment in public education will prevent UC from moving toward privatization. It will also help keep the cost of attending UC affordable. Please keep a college education within reach for all Californians.

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SUBJECT LINE: **Funding education is a smart choice**

I urge you to reaffirm our state's commitment to providing all California residents access to a quality college education. For more than four decades, this commitment has meant greater prosperity for our families and economic growth for our communities. But to sustain the promise of higher education in California, we must invest in our public colleges and universities.

Since 1970, the state's investment in UC has declined. That support now represents less than 4% of the state general fund budget -- about half of what it was four decades ago.

Please make funding for renewing California's "education infrastructure" and enrollment growth a top priority in the upcoming budget process. Expanding the state's long-term investment in teaching and research at UC is crucial to grow our economy, protect environmental resources, and ensure the health and prosperity of all Californians.

I know you have many tough choices in allocating our state's limited budget dollars, but investing in UC is a smart choice and one that we need to make now. It's also an investment that will ultimately help us solve many of the other challenges facing California.

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