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November 17, 2016

## CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Dear Members of Congress:

As you prepare to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 federal funding legislation, we write—on behalf of the University of California (UC) and the approximately 250,000 students represented by the University of California Student Association (UCSA)—to urge your support for critical investments in the Pell Grant program. Given the Pell Grant program's lower-than-expected costs in recent years, Congress has the opportunity in the FY 2017 funding legislation to provide an increase in the maximum discretionary award, while also reinstating year-round Pell Grant eligibility.

UC students rely on a network of federal, state, institutional, and family support to finance their total cost of education. Pell Grants are an essential component of that aid. At UC, more than 40 percent of undergraduates—nearly 80,000 students—qualify for Pell Grants, which is a higher percentage than any other top research university in the country. Notably, UC Pell Grant recipients graduate at a similar rate as other students. Last year, UC students received \$377 million in Pell Grant funding.

Year-round Pell Grants would allow students to receive an award during the summer sessions and enable low-income students to continue their studies year-round, helping them to stay on track for graduation or, in many cases, accelerating their time to degree. Allowing students to accelerate their time to completion could reduce the overall cost of education for many students, and potentially reduce their need for additional borrowing. In the 2010-11 academic year, when year-round Pell was last available, more than 13,500 UC students received over \$18 million in additional aid to cover their summer session.

UC and UCSA strongly urge you to invest in our students by increasing the maximum Pell Grant award and restoring year-round Pell Grants, helping to make college more affordable for low-income students.

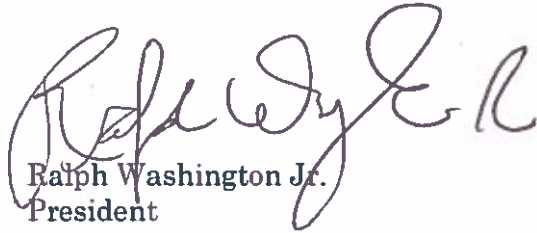
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Thank you for your continued support of federal student aid programs and for the students of the University of California. We look forward to working with you and your staff as you address the many opportunities and challenges we face in higher education. If you have any questions regarding the importance of Pell Grants or the restoration of year-round Pell for the University of California, please contact us.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano  
President  
University of California



Ralph Washington Jr.  
President  
University of California Student  
Association