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February 27, 2020

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Office of the President  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607

Re: Opposition to Option 1 proposed in the Working Group on Comprehensive Access Report

Dear President Napolitano,

As an organization committed to evidence-based, bias-free health care options for women and girls in California, the California Women's Law Center opposes Option 1 proposed in the Working Group on Comprehensive Access report. Option 1 fails to mandate that University of California Health (UC) not allow religious perspectives to influence the care it provides. Instead, this option will permit UC to place providers and patients in hospitals where services are restricted by religious doctrine.

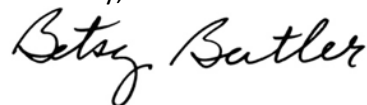
This type of restriction violates UC's obligation to be free of religious influence and undermines UC's commitment to evidence-based medicine. It also undermines UC's stated values of equity and inclusion. Religious health care restrictions often discriminate against patients by denying proper reproductive and LGBTQ-inclusive care. In addition, other services for patients like mental health, primary care, cancer treatment, and cardiology will suffer.

Prohibiting abortions, gender-affirming services, and other related services is discriminatory and ultimately results in a failure to provide necessary health care to women, girls, and LGBTQ people. Expanding access to care, especially in underserved communities, is only effective if it is evidence-based, unbiased, and comprehensive.

As the fourth largest health care provider in California, UC has a responsibility to provide comprehensive reproductive and LGBTQ-inclusive care, and remaining free from religious influence is essential to doing so.

The California Women's Law Center urges UC to adopt guidelines delineating the aspects of inclusive, comprehensive care, and clarifying that religious restrictions on health care administered by University of California Health are prohibited.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler

360 North Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 2070 | El Segundo, CA 90245

Phone: 323-951-1041 | Email: cwlc@cwlc.org

[www.cwlc.org](http://www.cwlc.org)