

KATIE ★ PORTER

FOR CONGRESS

Via U.S. and Electronic Mail

October 26, 2021

Michael Drake, President
University of California
Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Student Researchers United-UAW Recognition

Dear President Drake,

As members of California's congressional delegation, we urge you to immediately recognize Student Researchers United-UAW as the union chosen by the majority of 17,000 University of California Student Researchers. As you know, the University of California is the nation's premier research institute, and it secures more research funding and produces more patents than any other university in the nation. These incredible achievements would not be possible without the contributions of thousands of hardworking Student Researchers.

Student Researchers are essential drivers of the University of California's research mission. They perform experiments, write research grant proposals, and generate creative ideas that push the boundaries of their fields. Their hard work and dedication is a major reason why the school system received \$3.7 billion in federal research contracts and grant revenue in fiscal year 2020.

Despite their enormous contributions, Student Researchers face persistent inequalities in their workplaces. These issues include low wages, long hours, and workplace harassment and discrimination, all of which detract from their ability to perform their timely and groundbreaking research. In May, over 12,000 of these workers submitted authorization cards to the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) choosing to form a union, Student Researchers United-UAW. In early August, PERB verified this majority and the right of the union to be recognized.

The California Legislature passed SB 201 in 2017 to recognize the collective bargaining rights of all Student Researchers at the University of California. We respectfully urge you to respect the democratic decision of over twelve thousand UC employees and immediately begin the task of negotiating a contract that improves the working conditions of all Student Researchers.

Sincerely,

KATIE ★ PORTER
FOR CONGRESS



Congresswoman Katie Porter



Congressman Pete Aguilar



Congresswoman Karen Bass



Congresswoman Julia Brownley



Congressman Salud Carbajal



Congresswoman Judy Chu



Congressman Lou Correa



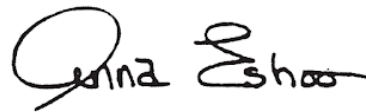
Congressman Jim Costa



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier



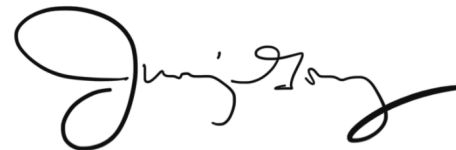
Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán



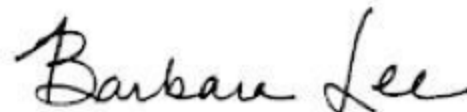
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo



Congressman John Garamendi



Congressman Jimmy Gomez



Congresswoman Barbara Lee

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Congressman Ted Lieu



Congressman Alan Lowenthal



Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren



Congresswoman Doris Matsui



Congressman Jerry McNerney



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano



Congressman Jimmy Panetta



Congressman Scott Peters



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez



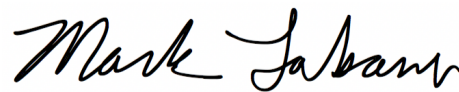
Congressman Adam Schiff



Congressman Brad Sherman



Congressman Eric Swalwell



Congressman Mark Takano



Congresswoman Norma Torres



Congressman Juan Vargas