

TED W. LIEU
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

236 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3976

5055 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 310
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036
(310) 652-3095

1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266
(310) 321-7664

September 7, 2022

Dr. Michael V. Drake, M.D.
President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Drake,

I write to express my support for a fair and collaborative contract negotiation between the University of California (UC) and 48,000 UC academic workers represented by the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 5180.

The University of California is an important higher education system serving my district at the University of California, Los Angeles, providing critical educational services and generating important research serving families throughout California. These high-quality services are made possible by the many academic workers that serve the University of California, its students and professors.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UC academic workers faced extraordinary circumstances as UC campuses provided important educational instruction to students and research, some of which was critical in the effort to treat and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. These academic workers faced many challenges in doing this work as the spread of COVID-19 impacted classroom instruction, research, and other university operations.

Recently, my staff had the opportunity to meet with academic workers represented by UAW Local 5180 who expressed their commitment to the University of California and to the students and professors who study and research at UC campus. Given the importance of supporting academic workers with quality pay and benefits, and the need to provide added workplace safety protections, ensuring fair and equitable treatment is important. I encourage the University of California to negotiate a bargaining agreement that offers academic workers quality benefits and protections to safeguard positive work environments. Union members have helped to make the University of California the tremendous academic system that it is, and continues to be, during an unprecedented pandemic.

If I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Nicolas Rodriguez in my District Office at (323) 651-1040. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress