

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Start Up Funding for the University of California, Riverside Medical School.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office to:

1. work with the University of California, Riverside (UCR), Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC), Riverside County Medical Association (RCMA), and other necessary county staff;
2. identify potential funding sources to enable the UCR medical school to open as scheduled;
3. include an allocation for the medical school as part of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.

BACKGROUND:

The state's ongoing fiscal troubles threaten to delay and scuttle plans for a UCR medical school, a resource Riverside County desperately needs.

Riverside County faces a mounting healthcare crisis. Potential closures of the two main hospitals in southwestern Riverside County and financial troubles at hospitals in Riverside and Hemet jeopardize residents' access to quality medical care. The UCR medical school, set to open in 2012, would provide infrastructure needed to protect Riverside County residents' health, safety and welfare for generations to come.

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Bob Buster
Supervisor, 1st District

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**BACKGROUND continued: Start Up Funding for the University of California, Riverside
Medical School**

The county suffers from a critical shortage of doctors that is only getting worse. Studies show Riverside County has the lowest proportion of doctors per resident of any California county with a population over 1 million. Riverside County has fewer than 100 doctors for every 100,000 residents-- that compares dismally with the state average of 174.

The UCR medical school would apprentice aspiring doctors in the region's clinics and hospitals and build community ties that will keep many of those doctors practicing here after graduation.

The medical school would not only improve healthcare and bring educational opportunities for our youth, but it would create high-paying employment in Riverside County. Research has found primary care doctors each generate about \$1 million in stimulus to the local economy by creating jobs, buying goods and services and collaborating with other healthcare providers. A medical school would transform the region's economy.

For these and many other reasons, The University of California Board of Regents approved the medical school for the University of California at Riverside in 2008. Since then, the university has appointed a medical school dean and has secured facilities, partnerships and millions of private and federal dollars to open the school as planned in 2012.

All the pieces are in place, but Sacramento has failed to provide \$10 million of its share of startup funding. This places at risk another \$10 million in matching funds pledged by the Kaiser Foundation. At this point, any delay to the school's launch could prevent the project from moving forward at all.

Riverside County cannot afford to let this long-awaited opportunity fade nor can it sacrifice the well-being of its residents to the chaos of Sacramento. A county investment of seed money for the medical school would save the school. The establishment of the medical school would bring immediate and lasting benefits for the entire region and could well be this board's most important legacy.