



STEVE BRANDAU
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 2

November 21, 2016

Florence Dunn, President
California Health Sciences University
120 N Clovis Ave
Clovis, CA 93612

Dear President Dunn,

Please accept this letter of support to accompany your application to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

Fresno has a severe shortage of primary care physicians. Compounding that problem, our best and brightest have to leave the Central Valley to attend medical school and most don't return to practice their life-saving skills at home.

With their vision to recruit and retain local students to help remedy the shortage of health care providers in Central California, California Health Sciences University (CHSU) has provided our community with greater access to higher education, health care and stimulated the local economy. They have demonstrated their commitment to Fresno and the rest of the Central Valley by admitting most of their pharmacy students from this region so students are more likely to stay and practice locally.

The opening of a CHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine might be the only opportunity that many Fresno-area students have to attend medical school due to affordability, qualifications, or cultural constraints preventing them from leaving the area.

Unemployment in Fresno remains stubbornly higher than state and national averages, and the disparity is even worse for high-income careers. Having a medical school offered in our region, especially by an institution whose mission is to attract and retain students from this area, would be a tremendous opportunity to train people who know the Valley to provide care for our unique population and develop new high-paying jobs in California's fastest growing communities.

We look forward to seeing the increase in Valley students choosing to become doctors and getting admitting into the CSHU College of Osteopathic Medicine in the future!

Sincerely,

Brandau
Fresno City Council, District 2