

California Legislature

December 14, 2016

Ms. Florence Dunn
President
California Health Sciences University
120 N. Clovis Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612

Re: California Health Sciences University's College of Osteopathic Medicine

Dear President Dunn:

We respectfully submit to you this letter in support of **California Health Sciences University's (CHSU)** College of Osteopathic Medicine – an exciting new program creating approximately 150 openings for students to study medicine right here in the San Joaquin Valley.

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine are fully licensed physicians and surgeons who receive special training in the musculoskeletal system. Their expertise is seen in offices and hospitals across California, as well as in all 50 states, in our armed services, and globally in more than 65 nations. Osteopathic Physicians often serve as primary care providers and have the additional benefit of being specially trained to perform Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment in order to diagnose and treat patients.

As members of the California State Legislature representing the San Joaquin Valley, we believe this project will be a tremendous asset to our communities and we support all phases of the process to establish, accredit and permit the school. For the past 25 years the San Joaquin Valley has been in desperate need of a medical school. Many of our students are forced to leave the area to complete their medical degrees, and as a result, they often don't return to practice in the communities they are from. This school will help remedy the shortage of health care providers here by giving students the opportunity to receive a high quality education in their own backyard.

In addition to enticing more doctors to the Valley, the CHSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine will stimulate the local and state economy by adding 250-350 faculty and staff positions. Each graduating physician will add approximately 9 additional jobs to the region, and the school itself will add over \$100 million annually to the local and state economy.

This is an excellent opportunity to train students and enable them to practice medicine and improve the quality of life of others—particularly those in underserved areas. We look forward to seeing the completion of this project and the positive impact it will have in the Central Valley for residents, students, and physicians alike.

Sincerely,



Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, 23rd Assembly District



Tom Berryhill
Senator, 8th District



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