



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH  
ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

October 15, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We are deeply disturbed by your veto of funding for the University of California Miguel Contreras Labor Program. This veto removes funds for programs that fulfill critical needs for working families and businesses across California. Moreover, it threatens academic freedom by singling out, without any academic review, one program within UC for elimination.

The Miguel Contreras Labor Program, which includes the Institutes for Research on Labor and Employment and Centers for Labor Research and Education at UC Berkeley and UCLA as well as the UC-wide Labor and Employment Research Fund, deserves state support on its own merits. It has generated high quality research on labor and employment on all of the UC campuses. This research is widely used by those in labor, business, and public policy who work to create and improve jobs in California, as well as scholars the world over. The Contreras Program also runs educational programs in UC and in the labor and business communities. Financial support for graduate students has helped to train new generations of labor and employment professionals and scholars, magnifying the statewide impact. As you well know, working families are struggling and the workplace is being transformed by dramatic, sometimes worrisome trends from offshoring to technological change. The work of the Contreras Program is thus more needed than ever.

We understand the need to balance the budget in difficult times and that UC should expect to make sacrifices along with other state programs. However, out of the \$3 billion UC budget, the only item you vetoed was the \$5.4 million Contreras Program. Given the tiny amount of savings, it is hard to understand this action as other than politically motivated. We see this as unwarranted political interference in the academic activities of the University of California. It violates the basic principle of the freedom to speak out and conduct research even on controversial topics; this freedom is a cornerstone of the vital, world-class university California needs.

We strongly urge you to restore funds to the University of California Miguel Contreras Labor Program this year, and support its funding in the future.

Sincerely,



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(signatures listed by UC campus first, then other institutions in alphabetical order)

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Norma Alarcon, Women's Studies

Sylvia A. Allegretto, Institute for Research on Labor & Employment

Robert Allen, African American and Ethnic Studies

Mirella Almaraz, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Institute for Research on  
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Robin Baker, Labor Occupational Health Program, Public Health

Ann Banfield, English

Dalm Bellm, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Institute for Research on Labor  
and Employment

Peter Berck, Agricultural and Resource Economics and Policy

Ruth Berins Collier, Political Science

Maria Blanco, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute for Race, Diversity and Ethnicity

Arthur Blaustein, College of Environmental Design

Irene Bloemraad, Sociology

Joan R. Bloom, Public Health

Clair Brown, Economics

Wendy Brown, Political Science



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Mark Healey, History



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Jim Lincoln, Business

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Wilson Michael P., Public Health

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, Public Health



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Isha Ray, Energy & Resources Group

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Juliann Sum, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

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Marcy Whitebook, Study of Child Care Employment, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment



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