

May 18th, 2026

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Agenda Item No. 27

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Batch No. 02

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: SUPPORT FOR SB 895 (Wiener) California Foundation for Science and Health Research

Dear Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811 is proud to **SPONSOR** SB 895 (Wiener), which would create the California Foundation for Science and Health Research to ensure that lifesaving and economically-vital scientific research continues in the state, even if the federal government cuts or withholds federal funds.

UAW 4811 represents over 50,000 academic workers at all ten campuses of the University of California and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. From teaching assistants and graduate student researchers to postdoctoral scholars and academic researchers, UAW 4811 members conduct the teaching and research that makes the University of California a world class institution. SB 895 is essential to ensure life-saving scientific research that benefits Californians continues and that the workers who power that engine have the support to continue innovation.

The bill additionally authorizes up to \$23 billion in General Obligation Bonds to fund research grants, loans, and facilities in medical, agricultural, environmental research and more. This funding will safeguard California's role as a global leader in innovation, an investment that will dramatically boost long term tax revenue, drive middle class job growth, and provide hope and healing to millions of Californians confronting deadly and debilitating diseases.

Scientific research and innovation is the engine of California's economic prosperity and a lifeline to millions of families struggling with health challenges. Recent federal cuts threaten to bulldoze the nation's top scientific institutions, disrupting innovations critical to California's future.

With the support of government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the scientific community has made innumerable advancements that have dramatically boosted public health, lowered costs, and improved quality of life for Californians.

Scientific research and innovation are the engines that have driven California's economic success for decades. The breakthroughs produced by universities and scientific researchers have sparked new industries and powered the success of the state's biotech, medical, agricultural, and software industries from startups to global companies. For every dollar invested in National Institutes of Health research there is a return of approximately \$2.50 in economic activity.

The National Institutes for Health, the main funder of biomedical research, awarded about \$35 billion in grants to research groups last year, including for the University of California. Federal cuts and

suspensions have threatened billions of dollars in scientific research funding, especially targeting California institutions like the University of California and the California State University System.

In 2025, the federal government froze or suspended \$584 million in grants to UCLA and demanded \$1 billion in fines—jeopardizing thousands of life-saving projects. Research areas at risk include cancer treatment, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, HIV/AIDS, pandemic preparedness, climate science, and earthquake and wildfire safety.

SB 895 authorizes up to \$23 billion in General Obligation Bonds to fund research in critical areas such as:

- Cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, heart disease, and diabetes
- Mental health and addiction
- Pandemic and emerging health threats
- Climate change, wildfire prevention, and environmental health
- Renewable energy and emerging technologies

In addition, the measure proposes groundbreaking ways to make health care more affordable in three primary ways:

- Allows the state to recoup a portion of licensing and royalty fees from inventions and technologies produced as a result of bond-funded research;
- Makes pharmaceuticals developed through this research available to Californians at a discount; and
- Allows California to publicly produce pharmaceuticals invented with bond-funded research via CalRx in order to sell them at cost to Californians and for profit to other states.

Without SB 895, California could lose its global leadership position in science, innovation, and public health and the billions of dollars in tax revenue and hundreds of thousands of high-wage jobs generated by the state's clear scientific leadership. For these reasons and more, UAW 4811 respectfully urges you to support SB 895.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Jaime', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rafael Jaime
President, UAW 4811