



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 2010

An Affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Jason Rabinowitz
Secretary Treasurer and Principal Officer

February 10, 2021

Dr. Michael V Drake, President, University of California
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Teamsters Urge Critical COVID Protections for Workers

Dear President Drake:

I write on behalf of the 14,000 essential UC employees represented by the Teamsters, who have been working hard and sacrificing through the COVID-19 crisis to keep University of California running. Teamsters Local 2010 urges UC to act quickly to adopt critical protections to its workers during the COVID pandemic.

Specifically, Teamsters urge you to agree to the Union's proposals to provide an additional 128 hours of COVID-19 leave for its employees; extend leave programs as permitted under the new stimulus bill passed last year by Congress; and implement and enhance the Cal OSHA Emergency standard that continues an employee's income when they are excluded from work due for COVID-related reasons.

We are proud that the Teamsters and our sister UC Unions have been able to work with UC leadership since the beginning of the pandemic to protect the safety and jobs of UC workers. We appreciate the fact that UC has worked with us to implement emergency programs providing paid COVID-19 leave and other measures to protect workers' jobs and income during the crisis.

However, as the pandemic has been with us for nearly a year, many workers have now exhausted the previously provided COVID-19 leave. Although the rollout of vaccines and the small decrease in new infections give us reason for optimism, our members and their families are still facing new COVID-19 infections and/or symptoms, schools are still closed throughout the state, and therefore UC workers still have an urgent need to have access to paid leave for coronavirus-related reasons.

The Teamsters have repeatedly proposed that UC implement the following protections for its workers:

1. Extend the COVID Paid Leave program to provide an additional 128 Hours in 2021.
2. Extend Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) programs systemwide. Under the \$900 billion stimulus bill passed by Congress in December, FFCRA leave is no longer required as of January 1st. However, employers may voluntarily provide paid leave through March 31st. UC should extend FFCRA and EPSL systemwide.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
400 Roland Way, Suite 2010
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 845-2221 | (510) 845-7444 Fax

Our Work Makes California Work!



www.teamsters2010.org

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
9900 Flower Street
Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 376-4710 | (562) 376-4709 Fax

Dr. Michael V Drake, President, University of California
Teamsters Urge Critical COVID Protections for Workers
February 10, 2021

3. Immediately Implement and-enhance the Cal OSHA Emergency Standard which provides that for employees excluded from work for COVID reasons who are otherwise able and available to work, employers shall continue and maintain an employee's earnings, seniority, and all other employee rights and benefits, including the employee's right to their former job status, as if the employee had not been removed from their job. UC should not require employees to exhaust sick time when excluded from work because of workplace exposure.

We have yet to receive a favorable response to these proposals, more than a month into the new year. This is not the right way to treat the workers who have placed their health and lives on the line to serve the University, the students, the faculty, the patients, and the community. UC has received substantial funding in the stimulus bills and in the state budget that it can use to fund these critical programs.

We note that California State University has agreed to additional COVID-19 leave hours for Teamsters members, and adopted the Cal OSHA standard. Other higher education institutions have similarly supported their employees.

Labor Relations has informed us that UC is currently considering this issue. The Teamsters urge UC to act quickly to adopt these critical protections to its workers during the COVID pandemic. We look forward to a positive response from you on this critical issue for UC's essential workers.

Sincerely,



Jason Rabinowitz
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer
Teamsters Local 2010

cc: Catherine Cobb, Teamsters Local 2010, President
Melissa Munio, Teamsters Local 2010, Chief of Staff
Tanya Akel, Teamsters Local 2010, Field Director
E Kevin Young, University of California Office of the President, Associate Director