Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

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As CLUE, we educate, organize, and mobilize the faith community to accompany workers and their families in their struggle for good jobs, dignity, and justice.

September 17, 2026

Chancellor Julio Frenk
UCLA Chancellor's Office
Mailcode: 140501
Box 951405, 2147 Murphy Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1405
chancellor@ucla.edu

Re: UC Los Angeles Early Childhood Education Centers planned 2027 closure

Dear Chancellor Frenk,

I am writing on behalf of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE Justice) to express our opposition to the proposed closure of the beloved UC Los Angeles Early Childhood Education Centers (ECEC). CLUE Justice organizes people of faith to support workers in their struggles for good jobs, dignity, and justice. Quality childcare is an essential element in economic justice and sustainability for families. The ECEC provides high quality and accessible early education and childcare to UCLA students, staff, and faculty. Closing the centers eliminates a valuable resource that cannot be replicated elsewhere and will severely impact the UCLA community.

If this closure occurs, nearly 80 Teamsters workers--both long-term, dedicated teachers with decades of cumulative experience, as well as student employees at the beginning of their careers--will lose their jobs. Parents who are faculty, staff, and students will lose access to quality child development services on campus. The benefits of the UCLA ECEC go beyond solely having childcare conveniently located near where the parent works or studies—the UCLA ECEC requires teachers to have higher education and more certifications than alternative centers. As a world-class university, UCLA should cherish this valuable asset that prepares the youngest of our children for a successful, educated life.

Fair pay and benefits for teachers provided by employment at UCLA means lower turnover and higher quality childcare. Plainly put, children, parents, staff and the university all lose if this program is eliminated—at very little gain to UCLA's bottom line.

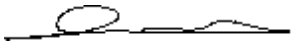
According to ECEC staff, the centers have always run at a deficit, as does the athletics department, and UCLA is not eliminating the football or basketball team. Whatever financial deficit the ECEC may have represents a tiny fraction of UCLA's billions in annual revenue, but closing the centers will create immense hardship for the UCLA community. The lack of quality childcare in West LA and costs are a critical concern for UCLA parents, and the loss of ECEC's subsidized care could end the education of students unable to access alternatives. The closure of ECEC will make it more difficult for parents, especially single mothers of young children, many of whom are women of color, to learn and do their jobs.

For these reasons, I ask that UC Los Angeles cease plans to close the ECEC and engage in a transparent and shared decision-making process on the future of ECEC. UCLA receives billions of dollars in income from tuition, healthcare centers, research and charitable endowments, and allocations from the state: Putting the heavy burden of finding quality

childcare back on families and taking away good, union jobs from ECEC teachers is a shameful, biased and retaliatory move.

UCLA should continue to invest in their community, in future Bruins, and in California. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns regarding this letter at jgutierrez@cluejustice.org.

Sincerely,



Rev. Jennifer Gutierrezz