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Dear Colleagues, Friends, Concerned Citizens:

Over the past several weeks, and in particular at the recent meeting of the UC Board of Regents, we have seen and heard hundreds of thoughtful, principled, and impassioned statements about UCSF's proposal to expand our relationship with Dignity Health's four Bay Area hospitals.

Many of you have expressed strong concerns about a significantly expanded UCSF relationship with a health care system that has certain limits on women's reproductive services, LGBTQ care, and end-of-life options. Meanwhile, many of you have been adamant that UCSF must build on its decades-long affiliation with Dignity Health in order to provide critically needed health care services to our Bay Area communities.

We respect and appreciate the diversity of opinions from multiple stakeholders both within UCSF and outside our University, and we have heard you all. In the past several days, we have met internally, with Dignity Health, and with leaders both in the University of California Office of the President and the Regents. Given the concerns, we will not continue to pursue the affiliation as it had been envisioned, which would have created a stronger link between UCSF Health and Dignity Health's four Bay Area hospitals.

What remains true is that the critical patient needs that have driven our discussions with Dignity Health still exist, and we have a responsibility to meet them. Going forward, we will continue to work to identify a path to help meet those needs and increase access to crucial health services. We will develop solutions that address many of the concerns we have heard. We are particularly sensitive to addressing the unique needs of women, LGBTQ patients, and those facing end-of-life decisions, as well as expanding access to welcoming and respectful health care.

Over the last 20 years, UCSF has worked with Dignity Health to advance health care for our communities. We respect the important role that Dignity Health has in our state's health care system and both recognize and appreciate the quality of care provided by their physicians and caregivers.

We thank you for your continued support for UCSF Health and the important public health mission that we serve.

Sincerely,

Sam Hawgood, MBBS
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Mark Laret
President and Chief Executive Officer
UCSF Health

