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The Honorable Rob Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman Bonta:

On behalf of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM), we write in strong support of AB 463, the Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency Act. UAEM is a network of student activists that believe their universities have an opportunity and responsibility to expand global access to public health goods, and includes chapters at dozens of U.S. universities, including Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis.

UAEM's policy work has shown the important role that our publicly funded universities and research institutions contribute to pharmaceutical R&D. As Ashley Stevens and colleagues noted in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, publicly-supported research institutions accounted for more than one out of every five new drugs receiving priority review between 1990 and 2007. We deserve to ensure fair returns on this publicly funded research. Currently, high drug prices present one of the primary obstacles to our state's and the country's healthcare system:

—Among the top 100 drugs in the U.S. the median revenue per patient rose from \$1,258 in 2010 to \$9,396 in 2014, a seven-fold increase (EvaluatePharma, 2014).

—Eleven of the twelve cancer drugs approved in 2012 were priced over \$100,000 per year (AARP, 2014).

—The price of the hepatitis C drug Sovaldi (Gilead Sciences), currently sold for \$1,000 per pill, is expected to raise every Californian's premiums by \$600 every year (California Association of Health Plans, 2015).

—In 2012, the US spent an average of \$8,915 per person on health care, reaching a total of \$2.8 trillion. California alone is expected to spend \$6.6 billion if it treats all 93,000 of its Medicaid enrollees and prisoners who are estimated to have chronic hepatitis C (California Healthcare Foundation, 2014; Express Scripts, 2014).

As university students committed to access to medicines and concerned with unsustainably high drug prices, we are fully in support of AB 463, which would require needed transparency on the part of pharmaceutical companies. We urge your support for this important step towards more affordable medicines.

Sincerely,

Merith Basey, Executive Director of UAEM

Maryam Kyarunts and Madeline Treasure, Co-Presidents of UAEM at Stanford University

Constance Lau and Umeet Sajjan, Co-Presidents of UAEM at UC Berkeley

Jack Killion and Eric Lo, Co-Presidents of UAEM at UC Davis