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Assembly California Legislature



LUIS A. ALEJO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

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AND TOXIC MATERIALS
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April 28, 2016

University of California President Janet Napolitano
Regents of the University of California
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

President Napolitano and Regents:

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, urge you to remove Chancellor Linda Katehi from her position as the Chancellor of University of California, Davis.

The education of the students of California is one of the highest priorities of the people of our state. The University of California system is the crown jewel of public institutions of higher learning not only in California, but across the nation. The chancellors of the 10 UC campuses are entrusted to uphold the high standards of integrity, academic research, and student instruction.

Chancellor Linda Katehi has violated the trust of the students of UC Davis, the UC system as a whole, and the people of California through her acts of impropriety. Her membership on the Board of the for-profit DeVry Education Group and the academic publisher John Wiley & Sons raises serious questions both about her judgment and a conflict of interest with her role as a chancellor. Furthermore, her decision to pad her \$424,360 taxpayer-funded salary with compensated positions is indefensible as tuition costs grow increasingly higher for our students.

If that was not enough, recent investigations have shown that under Chancellor Katehi's leadership, UC Davis spent at least \$175,000 to pay private consultants to "scrub" the Internet of negative posts involving the 2011 pepper-spraying of UC Davis students by campus police. The communications budget for the campus also increased from \$2.93 million in 2009 to \$5.47 million in 2015. This expenditure of significant taxpayer-provided funding to sugarcoat the public image of Chancellor Katehi is grossly inappropriate.

Yesterday, it was reported that President Napolitano was placing Chancellor Katehi on administrative leave due to these issues. But the same reports also revealed that there are significant concerns that she may have engaged in nepotism involving her son and daughter-in-law in hiring decisions involving UC Davis staff.

The national news media, including the New York Times, is beginning to report on the many controversies surrounding Chancellor Katehi. With every passing day that she remains Chancellor, the cloud of controversy over UC Davis and the University of California as a whole

grows and grows. You must do the right thing: put the dignity of the University of California family and the people of California first, and remove Chancellor Linda Katehi from her position.

Sincerely,



LUIS A. ALEJO
30th Assembly District



LORENA GONZALEZ
80th Assembly District



MIKE GATTO
43rd Assembly District



FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
52nd Assembly District



JOEL ANDERSON
38th Senate District