



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 05 2013

To the Members of the California State Assembly:


I am returning Assembly Bill 714 without my signature.

While the measure strives to do only good – namely advance research and cures for spinal cord injury – appropriating yet more state General Fund dollars to the University of California for a select purpose is not the answer.

After several years of painful cuts, last January, I proposed substantial budget increases for the University of California (\$511 million over four years) with maximum flexibility for their funding, so long as they did not increase tuition. The 2013 Budget Act provided the first portion of that increased investment.

Research is a core mission of the University of California. As such, it is entirely within the university system's discretion to fund the Spinal Cord Research Program, or any other project it deems of value. For that reason, I have consistently chosen not to support special earmarks in the University of California's budget and leave it to the university – as deeply steeped in innovation and research as it is – to make funding decisions like this.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.