

## **UC Statement on Proposed Title IX Amendments from Department of Education, June 2022:**

The University of California is encouraged by the meaningful changes the U.S. Department of Education has proposed for the Title IX regulations. These proposed changes come on an auspicious day — the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX, landmark civil rights legislation that transformed higher education in the U.S. The proposed rules represent a great improvement over the regulations issued by the previous administration in 2020, many of which UC opposed. The proposed changes would help ensure fairness while providing schools the flexibility to align policy with their institutional values.

UC particularly applauds the Department making explicit that Title IX prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, and that individuals have the right to participate in programs and activities consistent with their gender identity. UC also welcomes increased and explicit protections based on pregnancy or parental status. These provisions align with UC's current policies, practices and values. We are also pleased that the new regulations reject the previous administration's definition of sexual harassment, which is too narrow and may leave some egregious conduct unaddressed. If adopted, the new rules will increase flexibility for school communities to structure grievance procedures in ways that meet their individual circumstances.

The University remains committed to procedures that treat all involved both fairly and empathetically and produce outcomes that are just and reliable. As we mark the 50th anniversary of Title IX and acknowledge all the progress we've made and the work still ahead of us, UC is grateful that schools can once again look to the Department of Education for leadership on this and other critical issues affecting our nation's students.