July 1, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the Commission:

Loma Linda University and Medical Center wish to register our support for the alternative maps for the legislative and congressional districts of San Bernardino County, California, submitted by Inland Action, Inc. and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP). We especially support the change for the alternative proposal for the RIVMV congressional district.

Our institutions are located in the City of Loma Linda. For over 100 years we have educated healthcare professionals and delivered quality health care to our community. We employ more than 13,000 highly-skilled employees and professionals, operate the largest medical school in the western United States, and are the tertiary care Medical Center and Children’s Hospital for over one-quarter of the land area of the State and a population of 4.5 million in the inland counties of Southern California.

The largest part of our work force resides east of the campus in the Redlands and Yucaipa areas. Our institution is increasingly aligned with the healthcare interests of those communities. Effective representation in the U.S. Congress has been a major source of support and guidance for our institutions as they have grown to meet the needs of our primary service area. The Commission’s proposal for the RIVMV District will have the unfortunate effect of placing the bulk of our work force into a separate district from our institution.

The Inland Action and IEEP proposed maps give our employees and institutions a better opportunity to interact with our elected representatives. They keep our historic community relationships intact. They reduce the number of cities split by the Commission, particularly the City of Redlands. More than 470,000 Inland Empire residents will receive regional representation instead of being carved into districts in other counties.
We strongly recommend that the Inland Action and IEEP proposal be adopted by the Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH
President