

**OPENING STATEMENT OF DR. STEVEN DUBINETT
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MEDICINE
JULY 14, 2026 HEARING BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Good morning, Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, and Members of the Committee.

The mission of the David Geffen School of Medicine is to improve health through education, research, and patient care. We have trained generations of dedicated physicians and made scientific advances that have saved lives. This has included major advances in cancer, heart and lung disease, as well as neurologic disorders.

We are committed to educating future doctors who will improve health care across California and the nation. We prepare our medical students to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care grounded in science, clinical judgment, and professionalism. Effective medical care requires understanding how a patient's background and circumstances can affect health. As a critical care physician, who has cared for Veterans at the West Los Angeles VA, I have seen firsthand how much medicine depends on compassion, respect, and trust.

Teaching medical students how a patient's life circumstances can affect health is consistent with accreditation standards and is a necessary part of medical education. That was the intent of a now-discontinued course, Structural Racism and Health Equity. But, well before this Committee's inquiry, we determined that some of its content was not appropriate for a medical school curriculum. To address these concerns, we took the following concrete actions. One, we eliminated the course and replaced it with a new one that emphasizes evidence-based medicine and relies on clinical case studies. Two, at my direction, only UCLA faculty may lecture in our medical school courses. Three, we have instituted training on University of California Policy 2301, which limits the use of the classroom to relevant course content. We are committed to a scientifically rigorous medical education that prepares students for the realities of patient care.

One of our core values is fostering a welcoming and inclusive medical school environment. Some of our Jewish community members have confronted painful moments since October 7, 2023. This resonates with me personally. Not all of my family made it out of Europe during the Holocaust, and I have personally experienced antisemitism growing up. Our medical school condemns antisemitism and all forms of hatred; we are committed to sustaining an environment where all community members can learn, work, and care for patients with safety and respect.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss the importance of medical education with you today. Thank you.