

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

**Senator Gloria Romero** D-LOS ANGELES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senator Romero Praises Labor Agreement Between Patient Care Workers and the University of California**

SACRAMENTO – Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero (D-East Los Angeles) today released the following statement regarding the tentative labor agreement between the 11,500 University of California Patient Care Workers represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 3299 and the University of California (UC):

“UC patient care workers won an important victory today in negotiating a responsible contract that will protect workers and increase patient safety at UC medical facilities,” said Senator Romero. “I was proud to stand with the brothers and sisters of Local 3299 this summer to demand a fair contract for its members. Clearly, their hard work and sacrifice has paid off in the form of today’s agreement.”

“I would particularly like to commend the leadership of AFSCME, Local 3299 President Lakesha Harrison and her unwavering commitment to the members of Local 3299,” continued Romero.

“While today’s agreement between the UC and AFSCME, Local 3299 is welcome news, over 8,500 UC service workers continue to work without a contract,” Romero noted. “UC should re-focus their attention on seeking an immediate resolution to this impasse.”

The tentatively agreed upon contract includes the following historic provisions:

- A guaranteed longevity based step system which rewards workers for their experience and skills
- Across-the-board wage increases of the following per year: 4%, 5%, 3%, 3%+1 and 3%+1 and is retroactive to October 15, 2007
- The establishment of the first-ever statewide minimum wage that will move all workers to a minimum of \$14.50 per hour by the end of the contract
- For the first time ever, daily overtime pay after the completion of shift and double time after 12 hours
- For the first time ever, contract language that guarantees collective bargaining on employee pension and health care benefits

The contract must be approved by AFSCME, Local 3299 membership and will be voted on in early November.

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