WHEREAS, North Carolina voters will consider a $2 billion statewide bond that will affect every region of our state; and

WHEREAS, it has been 15 years since voters approved a similar bond; since then, North Carolina has grown by more than 2 million people; and

WHEREAS, the Connect NC Bond invests in public higher education, our parks and natural resources, local government water and sewer infrastructure needs, in public safety and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, nearly $1.5 billion of bond funds will be dedicated to projects at our state’s public universities and community colleges; and

WHEREAS, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the UNC Health Care Medical Center combined generated $7.1 billion in added income to North Carolina’s economy in fiscal 2013 – an amount representing nearly 100,000 jobs in the state; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Connect NC bond will provide $68 million to build a new state-of-the-art medical education facility at our School of Medicine, allowing the University to train more doctors; and

WHEREAS, our University will leverage those dollars by aggressively seeking the remaining $20.6 million in financial support required to make this new building a reality;

WHEREAS, North Carolina faces a physician shortage by 2020, which will keep growing as the population ages and today’s practicing physicians retire; and

WHEREAS, Carolina’s current medical school building is almost 50 years old and not designed to address 21st Century teaching and research needs; and

WHEREAS, when Berryhill Hall opened, there were 353 medical students; in 2014, we trained approximately 2,400 inter-professional health providers and medical students.

WHEREAS, a new medical education facility will enable us to provide modern, interactive instruction, grow future class sizes, and enhance our statewide presence at our partner campuses in Asheville, Charlotte and Wilmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees unanimously endorses the $2 billion Connect NC Bond, pledges to educate and inform the citizens of North Carolina about the importance of this bond, and encourages all eligible North Carolinians to vote “YES” for the bond in the primary election to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Adopted this 28th day of January, 2016.

Dwight D. Stone, Chair
Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill