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Valley must find, train more doctors

Thank you for keeping the need for a UC Merced Medical School alive ("UC should keep Merced med school planning on track," Jan. 26, Page A-11). John Garamendi deserves credit for creatively offering and fighting for an alternative that speaks to the health care crisis facing our valley, the shortage of physicians.

I might add that a medical school will solve only part of the resources gap we face: a severe shortage of primary care physicians (family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine and ob/gyn). We need more medical school graduates to select a primary care specialty. Until then, our valley will continue to suffer with access issues.

I hope that the Obama/Daschle team will act as their words have implied by reversing our health care pyramid and place prevention and wellness as the rightful priority in health care reform. If done correctly, primary care will once again receive the status required for us to become a healthier nation.

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Merced