

# California State Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
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(916) 651-4037

SENATOR  
DAVE MIN

THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



July 16, 2021

Dr. Michael V. Drake  
President, University of California  
Office of the President  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re.: Accellion Data Breach

Dear Dr. Drake:

As Chair of the newly created Senate Select Committee on Cybersecurity and Identity Theft Prevention, I am writing regarding the nationwide cyberattack on Accellion's File Transfer Appliance, which significantly impacted the University of California (UC) community.

On March 31, 2021 the UC Office of the President (UCOP) announced that UC was subject to a cybersecurity attack. I understand that nationwide, approximately 300 organizations were targeted by this cybersecurity attack on Accellion's File Transfer Appliance. As stated in the notice UC provided, the breach resulted in the theft of incredibly sensitive personally identifiable information:

*The impacted information may include full names, addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, driver's license information, passport information, financial information including bank routing and account numbers, health and related benefit information, disability information and birthdates, as well as other personal information.*

This cybersecurity attack hit the UC community hard, affecting faculty, students, current and former employees and their dependents, retirees, and many others. There are countless reports of sensitive personal information ending up on the dark web, leaving our UC community members vulnerable to identity theft, fraud, and other dangers.

While I appreciate the actions UC has taken to notify victims of the data breach and provide free credit monitoring and identity theft protection, I have some serious concerns. As a former UC faculty member and legislative representative of UC Irvine, and also as a victim of this particular attack, the scope and potential perniciousness of this data breach is deeply troubling.

Not only am I personally a victim of this breach, so too are my children, who will have to live the rest of their lives with the specter of identity theft endangering their financial wellbeing.

While I realize UC's investigation of the data breach is ongoing, and that you may therefore be limited in what you might be able or willing to share, I am eager to learn more about this incident and what steps might be taken to protect against future cybersecurity attacks. Accordingly, I am requesting your assistance answering the series of questions below.

- Prior to contracting for third-party software that may be used to manage, store, or otherwise house personally identifiable information, how did UC evaluate the technology and potential data risks?
- How often does UC assess data risks or other vulnerabilities associated with current internal or third-party software? What does this process entail? Does this include audits to ensure third-party compliance with security procedures?
- What third-party risk management protocols does UC currently utilize for cybersecurity?
- UC has stated the investigation is ongoing and that a forensic cybersecurity firm was engaged to determine precisely what happened and what data was accessed or acquired without authorization. Will UC release the findings of any internal investigations or forensic reviews associated with this data breach? If UC does not release the full findings, will UC release a summary of the findings that includes an account of what went wrong and the nature of the data accessed without authorization?
- The personally identifiable information of victims may be indefinitely compromised. Is UC considering extending free credit monitoring and identity theft services past a year to ensure victims are protected from long-term threats?

I appreciate your attention to this issue, as cyber security is the fight for our future. If my office can be of any assistance as UC works to address this data breach, please do not hesitate to contact us at 916-651-4037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVE MIN  
State Senator  
Senate District 37  
DKM: jd