



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

June 8, 2017

Michael Wagner, MD  
President and CEO, Tufts Medical Center  
800 Washington St, Boston MA 02111

Dear Dr. Wagner,

We are writing to urge Tufts Medical Center to continue the bargaining process with the Massachusetts Nurses Association and reach a fair contract settlement. The hospital must not allow the significant hardships to patients, families and residents in Boston that a strike by its 1200 nurses would cause. We have met with Tufts nurses about what they are seeking and we believe their concerns are valid and their proposals are reasonable.

Over more than twelve months of negotiations, Tufts nurses have told us that the hospital has experienced significant and widespread staffing shortfalls that impact patient safety, proposed cutbacks to the nurses' retirement benefits that would cause significant losses to some of the longest serving and most knowledgeable RNs, and offered unfair wage proposals which will seriously hinder recruitment and retention of new staff. As a result of the lack of progress in negotiations, Tufts nurses took a strike authorization vote on March 29th and voted overwhelmingly to authorize a one day strike.

Nurses have made it clear to us that they would rather be doing their jobs than be in the streets, but have said they will strike if necessary to protect their patients and their profession. There will be no settlement without a fair retirement package, suitable staffing standards, and recognition that nurses are highly specialized and trained professionals deserving of competitive wages. Tufts is a community hospital and its nurses care for a varied cross-section of patients who represent the great diversity of our city. The Tufts mission statement reads: *"We dedicate ourselves to furthering our rich tradition of health care innovation, leadership, charity and the highest standard of care and service to all in our community."* Tufts should live up to its own words and dedicate itself to its patients and staff by ensuring nurses are treated and compensated fairly.

Sincerely,

Evandro C. Carvalho  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Edward Coppinger  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Elizabeth Malia  
State Representative  
11th Suffolk

Sal DiDomenico  
State Senator  
Middlesex & Suffolk

Daniel Cullinane  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Linda Dorena Forry  
State Senator  
1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk

Daniel Hunt  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Joseph Boncore  
State Senator  
1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk & Middlesex

Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Michael Rush  
State Senator  
Norfolk & Suffolk

Adrian Madaro  
State Representative  
1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk

Nick Collins  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Daniel Ryan  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk

CC: Terry Hudson-Jinks, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Tufts Medical Center

Donna Kelly-Williams, RN, President, Massachusetts Nurses Association

Julie Pinkham, Executive Director, Massachusetts Nurses Association

Barbara Tiller, RN, Co-Chairperson MNA Bargaining Unit, Tufts Medical Center

Mary Havlicek-Cornaccia, RN, Co-Chairperson MNA Bargaining Unit, Tufts Medical Center