



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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city.council@cityofboston.gov

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One City Hall Square ♦ 5<sup>th</sup> Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

June 14, 2016

Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD  
President, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
75 Francis Street, Boston MA 02115

Dear Dr. Nabel,

We are writing to urge Brigham and Women's Hospital to return to the bargaining table with the Massachusetts Nurses Association to reach a fair contract settlement. If the hospital allows a strike by its 3,300 nurses, this would significantly impact patients, families and residents in Boston and throughout the region. We have heard from Brigham nurses about their concerns and believe what they are seeking is reasonable.

Over nine months of negotiations, Brigham nurses report that the hospital and Partners HealthCare have imposed staffing shortfalls that impact patient safety, proposed two-tiered benefit and health insurance programs, and offered unfair wage proposals. Brigham nurses have made it clear this is not acceptable. Following an enormous informational picket outside the hospital on May 17<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of nurses packed Florian Hall on May 31<sup>st</sup>, calling for a strike authorization vote. That vote took place on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, and 95% of the nurses voting chose to authorize a strike.

Nurses say they are prepared to strike to stand up for their patients and their profession. They will not settle their contract without safe staffing, equal benefits for every nurse, and a fair wage increase. As a non-profit health care organization, BWH/Partners should invest its enormous wealth back into the community it serves and the nurses who provide the majority of the care at the hospital. Brigham nurses are highly specialized, caring for some of the sickest patients in the region. They deserve fair and respectful treatment by their employer.

If you have any questions regarding our support of the nurses, please respond by contacting the office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim at 617-635-4225.

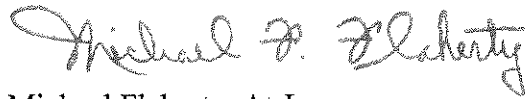
Sincerely,

Josh Zakim, District 8

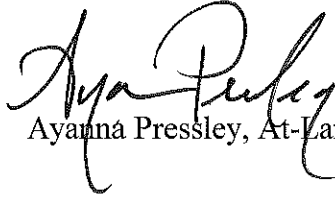
Matt O'Malley, District 6



Anissa Essabi-George, At-Large



Michael Flaherty, At-Large



Ayanna Pressley, At-Large



Michelle Wu, At-Large

Cc: David Torchiana, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Partners HealthCare  
Donna Kelly-Williams, RN, President, Massachusetts Nurses Association  
Julie Pinkham, Executive Director, Massachusetts Nurses Association  
Patricia Powers, RN, Chair MNA Bargaining Unit, Brigham and Women's Hospital