



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

October 13, 2021

Mark Sullivan, CEO
Catholic Health System
144 Genesee Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We are aware that staffing shortages at the hospitals of the Catholic Health System (CHS) have caused a devastating crisis for both patients and workers. CHS healthcare workers have told us of not having enough time to provide patients with the care they need, and that needed supplies are often unavailable. They report repeatedly working through lunch hours and breaks because they know there will not be adequate staff to watch patients while they are out. These healthcare heroes have been stretched past their breaking point, and felt that only a strike would force the recognition of these problems.

These healthcare heroes have been sacrificing their own health and well-being to get Buffalo through the COVID-19 pandemic. They have done everything possible to save lives and support families, despite deep staffing shortages, limited resources, and a hospital system that has not listened to their concerns until now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a spotlight on just how essential and important our healthcare workers are. Catholic Health will only make a national healthcare worker shortage worse by failing to agree to a contract that values the dedication of our healthcare heroes. We urge Catholic Health to work expeditiously to negotiate a fair contract with these workers – one that will enable CHS to attract and retain the staff needed to guarantee the highest quality patient care.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ryan
New York State Senator, 60th District

Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District

Michael Gianaris
New York State Senator, 12th District

Jessica Ramos
New York State Senator, 13th District

James Gaughran
New York State Senator, 5th District

Julia Salazar
New York State Senator, 18th District

Pete Harckham
New York State Senator, 40th District

Diane J. Savino
New York State Senator, 23rd District

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator, 27th District

James Skoufis
New York State Senator, 39th District

Rachel May
New York State Senator, 53rd District

Roxanne J. Persaud
New York State Senator, 19th District

Samra G. Brouk
New York State Senator, 55th District

Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senator, 26th District

John E. Brooks
New York State Senator, 8th District

Jabari Brisport
New York State Senator, 25th District

Michelle Hinchey
New York State Senator, 46th District

John C. Liu
New York State Senator, 11th District

Liz Krueger
New York State Senator, 28th District

Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senator, 22nd District

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
New York State Senator, 38th District

Toby Ann Stavisky
New York State Senator, 16th District

Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator, 33rd District

John W. Mannion
New York State Senator, 50th District

Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator, 56th District

Shelley B. Mayer
New York State Senator, 37th District