

December 14, 2020

Melissa Eckstein, President, Kari Howard, Chief Nursing Officer
1225 NE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Unity Center for Behavioral Health leaders,

As public leaders we hold serious concern, and heightened now due to COVID-19, with how nurses are faring in their working conditions and in their ability to provide quality care to Oregon residents, including our most vulnerable. The nurses at Unity Center for Behavioral Health have called on Unity administration to do its part to ensure safety and to value nurses' voice.

At a perilous moment for our community and our health system, with rising COVID-19 infection rates and rising risk and duress for health care workers, now is a time for greater, not lesser, attention on what these workers are telling us is needed to do their job.

Unity nurses have petitioned regarding their need that their currently-in-negotiation collective bargaining agreement...

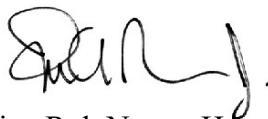
1. Protect their rights to safe staffing
2. Empower them to advocate for quality care with a focus on safety for everyone
3. Respect and establish nurse-led committees, like the Professional Nursing Care Committee and Clinical Practice Councils
4. Ensure all nurses are represented, treated fairly, and have access to due process and just culture

These principles represent an important starting point in showing investment in the nursing workforce and in bedside care. We echo them and hope to see a soon resolution to the negotiations, with a fair contract. We know that community wellbeing and mental health care for our region, in historically difficult times, will require coming together and valuing frontline work and those who do it.

Sincerely,



Representative Chris Gorsek, House District 49



Representative Rob Nosse, House District 42



Representative-Elect Khanh Pham, House District 46