



July 14, 2017

Donna Kelly-Williams, President  
Massachusetts Nurses Association  
340 Turnpike St.  
Canton, MA 02021

By e-mail: [dkellywilliams@massnurses.org](mailto:dkellywilliams@massnurses.org)

Dear Donna:

The 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers stand in solidarity with the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the registered nurses at Tufts Medical Center in your brave fight. We commend these frontline caregivers who committed to a one-day strike and, now, have committed to withstanding the employer's lockout. We stand with you in your fight to ensure patients get the quality of care they expect and deserve, and nurses get the dignity and respect they earn every single day.

Safe and appropriate nurse staffing levels save lives. As a union representing nurses and healthcare professionals around the country, the AFT is a vigorous advocate for accountability measures—including state and federal laws—that require hospitals to establish and enforce safe staffing. To provide high-quality patient care, hospitals must be able to attract and retain highly qualified and trained nurses. Nurses who are entrusted with patients' care, well-being and lives must be compensated fairly and guaranteed a secure retirement.

The 1,200 nurses at Tufts Medical Center provide highly specialized and skilled patient care. Even in fiscally difficult times, the work and contribution of nurses must be viewed and valued as essential to the hospital's core mission to provide high-quality care.

That is why we support your efforts to improve salaries and to protect and enhance pension benefits for the dedicated nurses at Tufts Medical Center. Ultimately, your fight is a fight to safeguard high-quality patient care. Thank you for your courage.

In unity,

Randi Weingarten

RW : cmj

cc: Ann Twomey  
AFT Nurses and Health Professionals Policy and Program Councils

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

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