



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
99th Legislature

July 14, 2018

Mark Schlissel MD
President, University of Michigan
503 Thompson St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1340

Dear President Schlissel,

We write to you today to advocate not just for the nurses of Michigan Medicine, who deserve to be heard and respected, but for all Michiganders who rely on Michigan Medicine for high-quality health care.

Nurses are highly trained professionals who play an invaluable role in delivering patient care and improving outcomes. We support the Michigan Nurses Association as they work toward a fair agreement with the University that will protect the rights and interests of nurses and patients. Based on over a decade of scientific research into the impact of staffing levels on patient outcomes, we believe everyone would benefit from giving nurses more of a voice in staffing decisions.

We echo the concerns that nurses have about safe staffing levels and urge you to negotiate contract language that includes transparency about the number of patients a nurse can be assigned at one time. Proposals on staffing must include neutral and binding dispute resolution process so that there is accountability in the event of short RN staffing.

A budget isn't just a compilation of numbers; it is a document that reflects an organization's values. Nurses have been undervalued for far too long. Michigan Medicine is asking nurses to pay more for their retirement and benefits while sitting on a surplus of over \$100 million. We know that the University of Michigan does value attracting top-quality staff and improving patient outcomes. If Michigan Medicine is to continue its internationally recognized leadership role, these values need to be reflected in the University's dealings with its professional nurses. We strongly urge you to ensure that Michigan Medicine negotiates in good faith to reach a contract that will be in the best interests of the university, its workers, and the people of our state.

In solidarity with University of Michigan Nurses and the Michigan Nurses Association,

Representative Donna Lasinski, 52nd District

Representative Yousef Rabhi, 53rd District

Representative Ronnie Peterson, 54th District

Representative Adam Zemke, 55th District

Senator Rebekah Warren, 18th District