HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

6-18-24

Christopher (Chris) D. Howard
President and Chief Executive Officer Sharp HealthCare
8695 Spectrum Center Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Chris,

I am writing to let you know that as a Member of Congress, I support healthcare workers at Sharp Metropolitan Campus in their efforts to join their fellow Sharp workers in the SEIU United Healthcare Workers West union.

Sharp Metropolitan Campus workers want an end to the below-market wages and years of understaffing that have impacted patient care and increased worker burnout. They are organizing for the power to have a real voice on the job to address these issues and ensure that they are fully supported in providing high-quality care to our San Diego community.

When labor and management are able to work together in a partnership we see clear gains for all parties, and real solutions that can lead to better quality of care for patients and healthier communities overall. One example of this is the joint efforts by Sharp and SEIU-UHW to increase Medi-Cal funding levels so that our healthcare system has the money it needs to improve access, affordability, and quality.

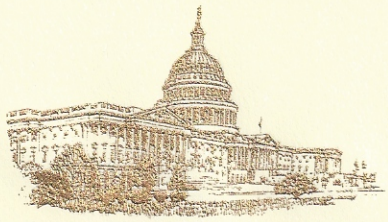
It is, therefore, disappointing to hear that instead of working in partnership, Sharp Metropolitan Campus management has chosen to harass and intimidate workers to discourage them from uniting with the more than 2,700 union healthcare workers already at Sharp Grossmont, Sharp HospiceCare, and Sharp Chula Vista.

Responsibility now lies with Sharp Metropolitan Campus management to cease all anti-union activity and respect the rights of their employees to decide for themselves if they want to form a union.

I encourage you to partner with SEIU-UHW, who has shown through agreements with other healthcare employers that they have innovative ideas to solve the short staffing crisis and to achieve better outcomes for workers, their patients, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

6-18-24

Trisha Khalegi
SVP Market CEO Sharp HealthCare
8695 Spectrum Center Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Trisha,

I am writing to let you know that as a Member of Congress, I support healthcare workers at Sharp Metropolitan Campus in their efforts to join their fellow Sharp workers in the SEIU United Healthcare Workers West union.

San Diego faces a short staffing crisis in healthcare, as older workers retire, and others consider leaving the field due to burnout and stressful conditions. Sharp's below-market wages and refusal to listen to worker concerns have only exacerbated this situation, leading to significant impacts on patient care.

Sharp workers are organizing for the power to have a real voice on the job to address these issues and ensure that they are fully supported in providing the high-quality care our San Diego community needs.

Responsibility now lies with Sharp Metropolitan Campus management to respect their employees' right to form a union with their coworkers and negotiate for better working conditions and real solutions to the patient care crisis. Sharp management must immediately stop all harassment and intimidation tactics that are aimed at deterring workers from voting to form a union.

We cannot solve the short staffing crisis without respecting the concerns of frontline healthcare workers. I hope you will do the right thing and partner with SEIU-UHW to achieve better outcomes for these workers, their patients, and the entire community of San Diego.

Sincerely,

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

not printed or mailed at taxpayer expense