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California State Senate

SENATOR
STEPHEN C. PADILLA
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
REVENUE & TAXATION

June 14, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Howard,

As the State Senator that represents Southern San Diego, I'm writing to support healthcare workers at Sharp Metropolitan Campus in their efforts to join their fellow Sharp workers in the SEIU-UHW West union.

I have heard from Sharp Metropolitan Campus workers who have expressed frustrations with below-market wages and years of understaffing that they feel has impacted patient care and increased worker burnout. They are organizing for collective bargaining power to address these issues and ensure that they are fully supported in providing high-quality care to our San Diego community.

All parties benefit when labor and management are able to work together in a partnership. This collaboration fosters 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.

But instead of working in partnership, it has come to my attention that Sharp Metropolitan Campus management has been using anti-union tactics to discourage their workers from joining with the more than 2,700 union healthcare workers already at Sharp Grossmont, Sharp HospiceCare, and Sharp Chula Vista.

I would appreciate if Sharp Metropolitan Campus management would 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 work together with organized labor on innovative ideas to solve the short staffing crisis and to achieve better outcomes for workers, patients, and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Senator Stephen C. Padilla
18th Senate District