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October 9, 2015

Deborah Proctor  
President & CEO  
St. Joseph Health  
3345 Michelson Drive, Suite 100  
Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Ms. Proctor:

I am aware the nurses of St. Joseph's Health System are actively organizing on multiple campuses with the California Nurses Association to represent their interests in collective bargaining. I am writing to express my hope that St. Joseph's management respect the right of Registered Nurses to decide on union representation in an environment that is free of any pressure or intimidation. Whatever the administration's views on the issue, it is a matter that should appropriately be left to the nurses.

As an elected official and someone who has devoted much of my career to ensuring that people have access to health care, I view RNs as having a direct impact on the quality of healthcare. I strongly believe that when the collective voices of RNs are respected, quality of care improves.

It is critically important to our state that health care facilities foster a nurturing workplace environment while addressing the need for highly skilled professionals. Affording nurses in the St. Joseph's system the right independently to determine their future with CNA will facilitate the mutual goal of attracting and retaining these qualified health professionals.

The California Nurses Association, the largest nurse union in the State, is an organization that is widely recognized for its leadership in healthcare. Major Catholic hospitals in California have entered into agreements with CNA that have resulted in good labor relations between management, CNA and its members.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bonta".

Rob Bonta, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee