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Assembly California Legislature



BILL DODD
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October 14, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Proctor:

I am proud to have Queen of the Valley Medical Center in my district. The dedicated staff truly makes the hospital an indispensable community resource. I have been informed that the nurses of St. Joseph's Health (SJH) are actively organizing on some of your other campuses with the California Nurses Association (CNA) to represent their interests in collective bargaining. This letter is to express my sincere hope that SJH management respects the rights of Registered Nurses (RNs) to decide on union representation.

As an advocate for quality healthcare, I know that RNs can have an important impact on the quality of healthcare. I also believe that when the collective voices of RNs are respected and considered, quality of care improves.

It has been brought to my attention that there have been issues involving staffing levels and labor practice issues with SJH highlighted in a recent report authored by CNA. As an elected official and someone who supports SJH, I hope these issues and differences are resolved.

A number of other Catholic hospitals in California have entered into agreements with CNA that have resulted in good labor relations between management and its RNs represented by CNA. My hope is that St. Joseph's will conduct itself in a neutral manner consistent with our values of democracy and free choice.

It is critically important to our community 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 to determine their future with CNA will facilitate the mutual goal of attracting and retaining these qualified health professionals.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my comments and for your leadership on this issue. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Dodd".

Bill Dodd
Assemblymember, District 4

