

September 28, 2021

Dear State Legislator,

We are contacting your office today in effort of expressing our concerns over what is currently taking place inside St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester Massachusetts.

The UFCW represents more than five hundred dedicated staff covering fifty-three job titles including Patient Care Assistants, Anesthesia Techs, Endoscopy Techs, Hemodialysis Techs, Pulmonary Techs, Orthopedic Techs, OR Aides, Mental Health Assistants, Secretaries, Patient Transporters, Housekeepers, EKG Techs, Certified Medical Assistants and Mental Health Assistants all currently working at St. Vincent Hospital.

While our members are highly skilled and capable, we are deeply concerned in regard to the safety and quality of care our members are able to deliver given the current conditions created by Tenet Management in response to the ongoing nursing strike. These conditions are creating a serious impact on the quality of services being provided by St. Vincent Hospital to members of Central Massachusetts and the Worcester Community as we all struggle to prepare for the resurgence of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The decision made by Tenet leadership and Carolyn Jackson to close roughly one-hundred inpatient beds and curtail other essential services provided by St. Vincent Hospital has created delays in patient care and has overtaxed the service capabilities of other local hospitals. This decision is placing our community at risk and while our dedicated members have worked tirelessly and heroically throughout the strike striving to provide the best care possible, we have heard numerous concerns from our members about the conditions inside the hospital which are unsafe for the patients and our members.

Our members want an end to this strike which also ensures the dedicated and *experienced* striking nurses can return to their original positions and restore the harmonious and cohesive working relationship our members have with them, restoring the safety and quality of patient care at St. Vincent Hospital. We know the striking nurses are ready and willing to bring this strike to a close pending a fair back to work agreement that returns them to the positions they held prior to the strike. This request represents the standard practice for ending any strike and we support the nurses' position. We are also very concerned as to the leadership of St. Vincent Hospital and Tenet's behavior throughout this strike and we call upon our elected officials and all entities involved in the provision of Health Care in Massachusetts to do whatever they can to compel Tenet to settle the strike, and if that doesn't happen, to hold Carolyn Jackson and Tenet accountable for the damage they are doing to the Hospital and to the Communities we all serve.



Fernando Lemus, President
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445