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COMMITTEES
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ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
REVIEW
BUDGET
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
TRANSPORTATION

July 1, 2020

Jackie DeSouza-Van Blaricum, CEO Riverside Community Hospital 4445 Magnolia Ave Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Nurses Strike at Riverside Community Hospital

As legislators in the Inland Empire, we are extremely concerned about the current conditions at Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) that have led to nurses, Members of SEIU 121RN, to strike. We understand this strike comes after several serious complaints about work place safety, access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and the inability to provide quality patient care. These complaints are in violation of the current contract between the hospital and nurses and put all of our communities at risk.

Hospitals have been at the center of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nurses at Riverside Community Hospital have been caring for our communities around the clock, especially as Riverside County has been especially hard hit. Now, more than ever, we must support our nurses to ensure their working environment is safe and allows them to give patients the utmost care and attention at appropriate staffing ratios. Unsafe working environments, which include a lack of access to PPE and severe understaffing, not only put our nurses at risk but also their families and their patients.

We hope that the parties involved can find a path forward towards a resolution so that Riverside Community Hospital can get back to focusing on patient needs and a healthier community. A path forward should guarantee:

- Nurses can continue to provide optimal care at a realistic nurse to patient ratio.
- Prioritizing a safe and healthy working environment. Nurses and medical personnel should have easy access to needed PPE and other resources to protect themselves and their families once they return home.

These requests will not only greatly improve conditions for nurses at RCH but also allow patients, our community members, to have a safe and nurturing environment in which to heal.

This strike is being held just before the start of contract negotiations, a historic action for SEIU Local 121RN, but it also underscores the importance of this moment and just how much is on the line for our entire community.

## Sincerely,

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Jose Medina Assemblymember, 61<sup>st</sup> District

James Ramos

Assemblymember, 40<sup>th</sup> District

Eloise Gomez-Reyes Assemblymember, 47<sup>th</sup> District Sabrina Cervantes

Assemblymember, 60<sup>th</sup> District

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Freddie Rodriguez Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> District