

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

May 5, 2021

Mr. Ronald Rittenmeyer  
Executive Chairman and CEO  
Tenet Healthcare  
14201 Dallas Parkway  
Dallas, Texas 75254

Dear Tenet Healthcare Board Members:

We are writing to express our ongoing concerns regarding the stalled contract negotiations between St. Vincent Hospital (St. Vincent's), their parent company Tenet Healthcare (Tenet), and the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), which represents approximately 800 professional nurses at the hospital. The MNA authorized a work stoppage after the existing contract expired and began the work stoppage on March 8, 2021.<sup>1</sup> After several weeks, we remain concerned about the impact this work stoppage has on the nurses, their families, and for patients, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that both parties can resume negotiations in earnest to immediately end this work stoppage and reinstate vital care for communities in Worcester and across the Central Massachusetts region.

Our offices wrote to leadership at Tenet and St. Vincent's prior to the start of the work stoppage to ask them to return to the bargaining table and avoid any stoppage of work.<sup>2</sup> Despite calls from local, state, and federal officials and other community stakeholders that such a work stoppage could have catastrophic consequences for the region, our understanding is that Tenet has not taken the meaningful steps to reach an agreement and a new contract.

As you know, Massachusetts continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic along with the rest of the country. Since we wrote to Tenet, there have been over 11,000 new confirmed COVID-19 cases in Worcester County, where St. Vincent's is located, bringing the total to over 75,000 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.<sup>3</sup> While St. Vincent's always plays a critical role in Central Massachusetts, the hospital's contribution to the community is even more significant due to the pandemic — and our nurses are an important part of that responsibility. The professional nurses at St. Vincent's and their families are not only an integral part of this

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Nurses Association, "St. Vincent Nurses Announce Strike-Related Events as Dallas-Based Tenet Healthcare Refuses to Negotiate Over Unsafe Patient Conditions," press release, March 5, 2021, <https://www.massnurses.org/news-and-events/p/openItem/11983>


<sup>2</sup> Letter from Senators Warren and Markey and Congressman McGovern to Tenet Healthcare CEO Mr. Ronald Rittenmeyer, February 26, 2021, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/02.26.21%20-%20Delegation%20letter%20to%20Tenet%20and%20Saint%20Vincent%20re%20contract%20negotiations.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard, Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by County, January 1, 2020 – April 27, 2021, May 4, 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/county-level-positivity-rates-april-28-2021/download>

community, but they have felt some of the pandemic's heaviest impact each and every day, working to save patients and protect themselves.

Since contract negotiations have not yet resulted in an agreement and the work stoppage has gone on for almost two months, we continue to urge all parties involved to support efforts to reach an agreement that is in the best interests of the entire community, the hospital, and its workers. We respectfully request that you advocate for St. Vincent's and Tenet to continue meaningful negotiations and remain at the bargaining table until the Hospital and the MNA reach a deal. We thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,




Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



James McGovern  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

CC:

J. Robert Kerrey, Lead Director, Tenet Healthcare  
James L. Bierman, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Richard W. Fisher, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Meaghan M. FitzGerald, DrPH, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Cecil D. Haney, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Chris S. Lynch, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Richard J. Mark, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Tammy Romo, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare  
Dr. Saum Sutaria, President and COO, Tenet Healthcare  
Dr. Nadja Y. West, Board Member, Tenet Healthcare