

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 22, 2023

Mark E. Manigan
President and Chief Executive Officer
RWJ Barnabas Health
95 Old Short Hills Road
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Mr. Manigan:

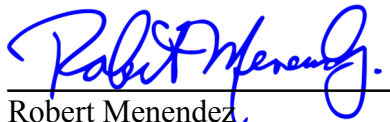
We write to you in support of the 1,700 nurses who walked out of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital on August 4, 2023, exercising their right to strike for better working conditions and better pay within the hospital system. We encourage you to move quickly to come to a good faith agreement that provides the nurses with safe standards, quality working conditions, affordable health care, and living wages that support the employees, the hospital community, and your patients.

From our conversations with nurses, we have come to understand that one of the key issues in this contract dispute is over safe staffing that is jeopardizing quality care. We support a path forward that ensures a collaborative relationship with nurses and honors the dignity of their work, recognizes their right to a safe workplace, and rewards their dedication to the individuals they serve.

Our constituents who are part of United Steel Workers (USW) Local 4-200 report that the decision to strike was “painful” because they are so committed to helping their patients in their time of need. However, they feel that without a secure contract that provides sufficient staffing levels, they are not able to fully provide the care they feel is necessary. We hope that you and USW Local 4-200 can reach a quick resolution that resolves this strike with a fair contract that respects the workers’ demands for safe staffing. A quick resolution will not only ensure that Robert Wood Johnson retains a highly skilled and well supported workforce, but also that the 1,700 devoted nurses can return to their critical work with minimal disruptions to their wellbeing, the wellbeing of their families, and the wellbeing of their communities.

We urge you and the union to come to an agreement that will best serve your patients, your employees, and your hospital.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

CC: Bill Arnold, Executive Vice President, Southern Region
John W. Doll, Chief Operating Officer
Nancy E. Holecek, Executive Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
Alan Lee, RWJ New Brunswick