



**John Bocchieri & Michele Lepore-Hagan**  
State Representatives

June 7, 2018

Kara Ellis  
V.P. Strategic Business Solutions  
Steward Healthcare  
111 Huntington Avenue, Suite 1800  
Boston, MA 02199

Linda Grass, President  
Northside Regional Medical Center  
500 Gypsy Lane  
Youngstown, OH 44504

Dear Ms. Ellis and Ms. Grass,

We write today to share our concerns regarding both the ongoing contract negotiations between Steward Healthcare and the Youngstown General Duty Nurses Association (YGDNA) and some general operating procedures at the Northside Regional Medical Center. Specifically, we remain concerned that during ongoing negotiations, the company may be rejecting inputs from the YGDNA and its members, abandoning the principle of joint governance which has long been in place at Northside.

The experience level of committed professionals, who on average have 25 years of career experience, and their input to contract negotiations is important to understanding the challenges of a strained workforce and the health needs of our constituents. Dismissing their valuable input is an opportunity lost for our community as we attempt to address important health concerns and avoid management-labor disputes.

It is our hope that during these negotiations, Steward Healthcare address operational changes we believe are in conflict with the company's commitment to staff and residents alike to offer a high quality, comprehensive health care services at the facility. We have become aware that the following operational changes, made over strenuous objections of the YGDNA, threaten better health outcomes for our community:

- Eliminating the ability of outpatients to receive blood transfusions;
- Reducing pharmacy hours, which has caused delays in-patient, care;
- Altering the staff-to-patient ratio to levels that make it difficult to provide high quality care;
- Reducing auxiliary staff that provide crucial services to patients.

During ongoing negotiations, we ask that you consider reversing these operational changes and seek input from the Youngstown General Duty Nurses Association and the Ohio Nurses Association, recognizing their decades of experience caring for the citizens of Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and your consideration of our concerns as you proceed during contract negotiations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bocchieri in black ink.

**JOHN BOCCIERI**  
State Representative  
59<sup>th</sup> House District

Handwritten signature of Michele Lepore-Hagan in black ink.

**MICHELE LEPORE-HAGAN**  
State Representative  
58<sup>th</sup> House District