



**April 22nd, 2020**

Dr. Sonia Angell  
Director, California Department of Public Health  
PO Box 997377, MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899

**Re: All Facility Letter 20-26**

Dear Dr. Angell,

We write on behalf of nurses and healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

California has been a national model for how to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we congratulate your department on the exemplary work you have done during these difficult times. We see many of your choices and policies paying off in flattening the curve. However, we also wanted to share important concerns raised by the frontline nurses that are at the heart of our state's response.

As you are well aware, due to the public health emergency, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) suspended many of the acute care hospital licensing requirements through All Facility Letter 20-26 issued on March 20, 2020. Of particular concern, that letter paused requirements concerning Nurse-to-Patient Ratios. While during these extraordinary times it may be necessary to temporarily pause certain statutes and regulations, it is vital that nurses have a voice to speak up when they feel that the health and safety of their patients is at risk. We also want to ensure that the suspension of these laws does not continue for longer than is necessary. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you consider the following proposals:

- Create an online portal for nurses to report unsafe staffing conditions and abuse related to these waivers;
- Consider a phased-out approach of the staffing ratio waivers, restrictions on elective surgeries, and other restrictions as appropriate for hospitals that are no longer inundated with COVID-19 patients prior to the June 30, 2020 deadline;
- Upon the conclusion of the public health emergency, publish a report and make available the underlying data regarding staffing, supply complaints, and adverse events reported to CDPH during the emergency, as required by All Facility Letter 20-26.

The proposals above will help to provide a critical window into the concerns of frontline nurses and enhance California's ability to respond to COVID-19. Moreover, as our state recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, some hospitals may return to regular business, which should include a return to normal licensing and regulatory requirements. These proposals also will provide us with a better understanding of our healthcare system's experience during this public health emergency and enable us to better prepare for future emergencies.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and for the extraordinary work that you and your department have done during this challenging time. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (916) 319-2045.

Sincerely,



Jesse Gabriel  
Assemblymember, 45th District



Lorena Gonzalez  
Assemblymember, 80th District



Luz Rivas  
Assemblymember, 39th District



Blanca Rubio  
Assemblymember, 48th District



Ian Calderon  
Assemblymember, 57th District



Connie Leyva  
Senator, 20th District



Eduardo Garcia  
Assemblymember, 56th District



Mark Stone  
Assemblymember, 29th District



Marc Levine  
Assemblymember, 10th District



Miguel Santiago  
Assemblymember, 53rd District



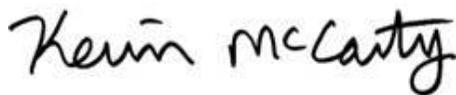
Marc Berman  
Assemblymember, 24th District



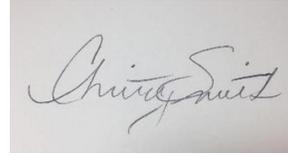
Monique Limon  
Assemblymember, 37th District



Cristina Garcia  
Assemblymember, 58th District



Kevin McCarty  
Assemblymember, 7th District



Christy Smith  
Assemblymember, 38th District



Todd Gloria  
Assemblymember, 78th District



Freddie Rodriguez  
Assemblymember, 52nd District



Buffy Wicks  
Assemblymember, 15th District



David Chiu  
Assemblymember, 17th District



Wendy Carrillo  
Assemblymember, 51<sup>st</sup> District

CC: Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Assemblymember Jim Wood, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee  
Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
on Health and Human Services