



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**

July 30, 2020

Patrick Quinn  
Rhode Island Executive Vice President  
SEIU Healthcare 1199NE

Dear Mr. Quinn:

First, I want to personally thank the women and men of SEIU Healthcare 1199NE for your heroic efforts caring for Rhode Island nursing home residents under extremely challenging conditions. Your dedication to ensuring Rhode Island's most at-risk population receives the care they need and deserve during the COVID-19 pandemic has been nothing short of inspiring.

More broadly, I commend SEIU District 1199 for being a crucial partner in the State's work to build a more resilient long-term care system that benefits our loved ones in need of care. Your work has always been important, which is why I have made it a priority to support wage increases and expand home-based care options in Rhode Island.

I was disappointed the General Assembly did not pass legislation to establish minimum staffing levels in Rhode Island nursing homes, and I understand the resulting frustration of nursing home staff. However, this is a very difficult time for a strike in nursing homes, given the unique vulnerability of nursing home residents to the novel coronavirus. We need to keep our nursing home residents safe as we continue our effective response to COVID-19.

For these reasons, I ask that you please postpone a job action. My office is fully committed to working with the Legislature and the leadership of SEIU District 1199 to reach a fair resolution of the staffing issues you have raised and to develop a minimum staffing standard.

Thank you again for your partnership and your service to the people of Rhode Island. My door is always open to you.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor