



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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JANICE HAHN

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

December 29, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to you in support of SEIU 721's request to provide additional healthcare workers to all hospitals within LA County. Specifically, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, and respiratory care practitioners are desperately needed to provide lifesaving treatment and care.

The devastating increase in COVID-19 cases and the number of individuals requiring hospital level care are pushing hospitals across LA County to their breaking point. Our dedicated and highly skilled health care providers are working tirelessly to save lives; but there just isn't enough staffing available to provide all patients with the best care possible. We must continue to do everything within our power to fully support our health care providers as they battle this pandemic on the front line inside our hospitals.

I also ask that you call on our federal partners to bring back the USNS Mercy with accompanying medical staff to the Port of Los Angeles. Emergency departments throughout LA County are overwhelmed and cannot take in all patients in need of urgent care. The USNS Mercy can add more emergency care capacity for patients not suffering from COVID-19 related health complications. This will in turn alleviate the burden on hospitals, so they can focus on severely ill COVID-19 patients.

Our public health experts warn that the worst is yet to come with the anticipated incoming Christmas and New Year's holiday surge, so I urge you to act now and equip our hospitals with additional healthcare workers and resources to save as many lives as possible.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Hahn".

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles