

## GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

May 8, 2025

Rob Baril President, SEIU 1199NE (delivered via e-mail)

Dear Mr. Baril:

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you earlier this week to discuss Connecticut's nursing home workers and your efforts to secure collective bargaining agreements with human service providers under state contract.

As I said during our meeting and reiterated in my public comments, I believe that nursing home workers provide an invaluable service and do strenuous work on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens. I am very sympathetic to the service they provide and certainly do not think their current wages match the value of their incredible work. Not only do we need to retain these workers who currently hold these jobs, but we need to do more to recruit more people who are willing to work in our nursing homes.

As the May 19 strike deadline for workers at 51 nursing homes and potential strikes at several group home facilities approaches, I have tasked my administration with continuing to work with you, providers that are facing potential strikes, and legislative leaders to identify opportunities for the state to provide support for the workforce that keeps so many in our state healthy and safe. It is unlikely that the budget process will be resolved for at least a couple of more weeks, and until that time it is impossible to provide the assurances necessary to allow providers to make commitments to employees, collectively bargained or otherwise.

With that in mind, I respectfully ask that you communicate to your members that those of us at the State Capitol hear their voices and share their concerns, and ask them to strongly consider postponing any strike action to enable time for this budget process to reach a resolution that can provide a positive result. I assure you that our administration is committed to reaching a positive resolution as soon as possible.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

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Sincerely,

Ned Lamont Governor