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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Brian Harte, MD, MHM  
President  
Cleveland Clinic South Submarket and Akron General  
9500 Euclid Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44195

March 1, 2024

Dr. Harte:

I write to express my concern over the lack of progress in ongoing contract negotiations between Cleveland Clinic Akron General and the Ohio Nurses Association. While I appreciate that these negotiations take time, I am concerned that failure to come to an agreement that best serves this community in a timely manner could threaten access to quality care in the community.

Cleveland Clinic Akron General plays a vital role in maintaining access to quality care and serving as an essential part of the healthcare safety net for those in Akron and its surrounding communities. Your nurses are compassionate and skilled professionals who work long hours doing all-too-often thankless but critical work. As we know, your employees are essential to your ability to fulfill your hospital's mission to be the best place for care anywhere and the best place to work in healthcare.

I strongly encourage Cleveland Clinic Akron General and the Ohio Nurses Association to secure a fair settlement that honors the dignity of the work of the nurses and avoids a strike to maintain the continuity of quality care for our community. Like you, these workers care deeply about the health of our community and are committed to ensuring patients get the best possible care. I urge both sides to find a way toward reaching a fair and equitable agreement in a timely manner.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter, as well as the leadership and partnership of Cleveland Clinic Akron General, and look forward to our continued work to serve the healthcare needs of our community.

Sincerely,



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress  
13th Congressional District of Ohio