

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



Representative Liz Berry
132B Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

August 29, 2025

Seattle Children's Hospital
4800 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Seattle Children's Hospital,

I write to express my support for the nurses represented by Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA), employed by your hospital (SCH), who are currently negotiating for a new contract. The nurses providing pediatric care for sick and injured children, and providing support for those children's families, are dedicated to critical work under physically and emotionally stressful conditions. I understand that the nurses in these negotiations are seeking protections from workplace violence, structural improvements that would ensure they receive adequate rest and meal breaks, increased sick leave, and wage improvements that would align SCH nurses' compensation with other West Coast children's hospitals while allowing SCH to recruit and retain nurses in hard-to-fill positions.

I acknowledge that the collective bargaining process can be lengthy and complicated. I also recognize that what happens at your bargaining table has state-wide significance, as the nurses at SCH, and the services they provide to our community, are of utmost importance to the health and welfare of our state's children and their families. I am concerned about the effects and reverberations that protracted and contentious negotiations at SCH would have on the patients, workers, families, and neighboring health care facilities.

The history of SCH is well-known and laudable—you have been a pioneer in the treatment of children, guided by a vision to provide care for children regardless of race, religion, gender, or a means to pay. SCH is a top-ranked pediatric hospital, and for good reason. It has always pushed to be a leader in its field.

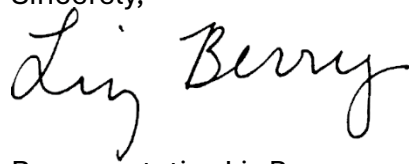
Today, I urge SCH to reaffirm that commitment for its nurses. SCH should also set an example on crucial issues like workplace safety, guaranteeing nurses rest and meal breaks, making sure nurses can take time away from work when they or their families are ill, commitments to non-discrimination and non-retaliation, and providing wages that allow nurses to live where they work. In other words, your industry-leading hospital should treat its nurses with industry-leading wages and working conditions. Without its nurses, SCH cannot fulfill its goal of providing cutting-edge and groundbreaking medical treatment to our most vulnerable and precious citizens.

As an elected leader, I am responsible for protecting the health and safety of my constituents and ensuring they have access to the tools to live productive and successful lives. SCH is not only a hospital, but it is a powerful and well-respected member of our local community. As such, I expect SCH to be a responsible corporate citizen, joining me on the mission of serving and protecting our communities. I urge SCH to negotiate in good faith with WSNA to come to a fair deal.

To that end, I encourage SCH to not drag out negotiations. I am concerned that labor disruption at SCH would harm our community, both because of potential impacts on the patients who deserve the top-quality care that WSNA nurses give, and to the nurses who deserve respect, a safe workplace, adequate rest and time off, and fair compensation.

I stand by the Seattle Children's nurses and call on Seattle Children's Hospital to negotiate fairly and swiftly to reach an agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Berry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Liz Berry
36th Legislative District