

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

October 9, 2020

Dr. Craig Lambrecht, President & CEO
Kalispell Regional Healthcare
310 Sunnyview Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dr. Lambrecht,

Nursing is both a profession and a calling. It requires not only a rigorous education, but a great deal of empathy and emotional fortitude. Unfilled nursing positions and high turnover among nurses negatively impacts patient care. Recruiting and retaining quality, caring nurses is crucial to the well-being of Montanans – now more than ever. All nurses deserve an environment in which their contributions and insights are valued, they can advocate for their patients' safety and quality of care, and they have a voice in their future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified existing health care needs in Montana. We need our frontline health care workers not only to care for COVID-19 patients, but to provide other necessary medical care during a pandemic. Our nurses continue to deliver babies, administer chemotherapy, and meet the ambulance while performing additional tasks to mitigate spreading COVID-19 to vulnerable patients. Their work preserving the health of Montanans and our communities is especially critical because it directly impacts the health of our economy.

Nurses are in our communities and at patients' bedsides, and they deserve a seat at the table where decisions are made. I ask you to please continue to meet with the Registered Nurses at Kalispell Regional Healthcare and work with them on settling a fair contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Registered Nurses at Kalispell Regional Healthcare