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EMIL JONES, III
STATE SENATOR • 14TH DISTRICT

May 29, 2020

Committees:
Local Government – Chairperson
Licensed Activities
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Revenue
Financial Institutions
Senate Black Caucus
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Dear Roseland Nurse,

It is my honor to serve as the Senator of the 14th Legislative District which includes Roseland Community Hospital. I would first like to thank you for your dedication to patient care. Our hospital plays a critical role in providing care to our far south side community. While you long deserve gratitude and respect for your work, it has never been truer now that going to work now takes on new meaning, as nurses and other frontline healthcare workers risk their and their families' health. Your dedication is inspiring. And your voices deserve to be heard.

I am aware RNs and Mental Health Associates at Roseland Community Hospital are organizing to join SEIU Healthcare and that you have elections pending. Indeed, in early April I had the pleasure to meet with a group of Roseland RNs and heard your stories. I want to express my support for your organizing drives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare for all to see the disparities in Chicago: 70% of our city's coronavirus-related deaths have been Black Chicagoans, and Black and low-income Chicagoans are disproportionately hurt by this crisis due to economic and social inequities. As one of the early COVID testing and treatment sites on the South Side, you were once again at the forefront of addressing health disparities.

As the Senator representing Roseland Community Hospital, my priority is to fight for resources, funding, and stability to our community and our hospital. I have worked side-by-side with SEIU Healthcare to fight for the healthcare delivery system our community needs and deserves. They have been a consistent and dedicated partner in the fight for economic, racial, and social justice. It is the union that represents community safety-net hospitals like Roseland, Loretto, St. Bernard. It is the union that springs into action whenever our hospitals and our communities are under threat.

After a bad bill two years ago nearly forced Roseland Community Hospital to close, SEIU fought to secure additional revenue sources to keep the hospital's doors open. SEIU was back this year and leading the fight for more Medicaid money and other funding sources for Roseland and other safety-net hospitals. I know because I was there.

I am disappointed to learn that the hospital has chosen to run an aggressive anti-union campaign to sow division amongst RNs, CNAs, housekeepers, and other members of the patient care team.

Especially in this moment, we must work together, support each other, and focus our efforts on treating this deadly virus and also on the fights ahead for a more equitable healthcare delivery system where you have all the resources, staffing, equipment, supplies, and support you need to provide the kind of quality care that called you into nursing in the first place. Together *we* can do more! And I look forward to seeing RNs united with other SEIU members when we can return to Springfield.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emil Jones, III".

Senator Emil Jones, III