



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

September 23, 2026

Mr. Allen Stefanek, President & CEO  
Central Maine Medical Center  
Prime Healthcare Foundation, Inc.  
300 Maine Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

Dear Mr. Stefanek,

I write to express my deep concern about reports that Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) has terminated at least 15 nurses and suspended five others just days before a union election.

For years, experts have warned that Maine's aging workforce would lead to a substantial nursing shortage. Since 2019, my Administration has invested millions of dollars to expand the nursing workforce—making community college nursing programs free for recent high school graduates, funding training programs and tuition assistance, strengthening the state's student-loan tax credit, and creating an enhanced student-loan benefit for nursing educators.

Although we have made significant progress, experts still warn that Maine's registered nurse vacancy rate in hospitals exceeds the national average. At a time when we are in desperate need of healthcare professionals, it is unconscionable that CMMC would fire or suspend so many nurses in such short order.

In 2025, my Administration issued a Certificate of Need (CON) approving Prime Healthcare's acquisition of Central Maine Healthcare. In July, following media reports and complaints to the Department concerning staffing shortages and quality-of-care issues, and a request for information that was not sufficiently answered, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services notified you that it was reviewing Prime Healthcare's compliance with the Certificate of Need's staffing requirements.

The decision to fire or suspend 20 nurses only heightens concerns that Prime Healthcare is failing to meet its commitments under the CON approval, which requires that essential health services for patients be maintained in accordance with acceptable standards for quality and safety. As well, I understand that the Department, acting in its capacity as the state agent for Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), has made a site visit to CMMC and is reviewing quality of care and safety concerns related to staffing under that authority.

While Prime Healthcare insists that no employee was disciplined because of union activity, taking this action amid a critical statewide nursing shortage – and just days before nurses are set



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to exercise their right to make their voices heard in a union election – raises serious questions about retaliation.

**I strongly urge you to immediately reinstate every nurse who has been wrongfully fired or suspended.** Failure to do so will make clear to Maine people that Prime Healthcare is prioritizing corporate interests over the commitments it made to the State of Maine to deliver the quality health care which Maine people expect and deserve.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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