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December 20, 2007

Mr. James Shoffner
Chair, Board of Trustees
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
2285 Executive Drive, Suite 400
Lexington, KY 40505

Mr. Jerry W. Haynes
President and CEO
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
2285 Executive Drive, Suite 400
Lexington, KY 40505

Ms. Maureen Keenan
Executive Director
Kentucky Nurses Association
P.O. Box 2616
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-2616

Mr. Steve McElroy
Executive Director
West Virginia Nurses Association
405 Capitol Street, Suite 600
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Dear Mr. Shoffner, Mr. Haynes, Ms. Keenan, Mr. McElroy,

We express our support for the proposal offered by Governors Steve Beshear and Joe Manchin in their attempt to foster a resolution of the current labor management dispute.

There is a wonderful legacy of cooperation between workers and management in the creation of a hospital system that serves the health care needs of so many people across the coalfields of Kentucky and West Virginia. It is with sorrow that we see this health care resource ensnared in a dispute between labor and management.

Health care is an essential human right, and the creation of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare system was a milestone in enabling citizens of eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia to exercise that right. The great healthcare needs of the people of central Appalachia make the resolution of the current impasse all the more important.

Catholic Social Teaching calls for workers and employers not only to advance their own interests, but also to work together to advance economic justice and well-being for the common good. Workers have the right to organize and advocate their positions. Management, in its fiduciary obligations, has the

**Most Reverend
Joseph E. Kurtz**
Archbishop of Louisville

**Most Reverend
John J. McRaith**
Bishop of Owensboro

**Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys**
Bishop of Covington

**Most Reverend
Ronald W. Gainer**
Bishop of Lexington

Edward C. Monahan
Executive Director

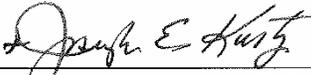
responsibility for the services and products of their hospitals, creating jobs that uphold human dignity and the viability of their enterprise. The economy must first serve people. In health care, work is emphatically more than making a living or the pursuit of corporate objectives.

Compassionate and high quality patient care is paramount to all health care deliberations. Proper staffing for quality and compassionate care is an essential element in health care delivery. Mission and values favoring intrinsic human dignity and well-being for patients and their families must always be the essential criteria for these critical decisions.

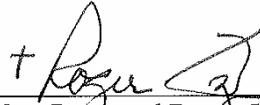
As the feast of the birth of the Prince of Peace approaches, it is our hope that all parties will work together to reach a just and equitable resolution for the issues that separate management and labor. It is our hope that there can be the resumption of work and that mutual dialogue may be fruitful through the good faith efforts of all parties.

The Bishops of Kentucky and West Virginia offer our prayers and support in this process to seek resolution.

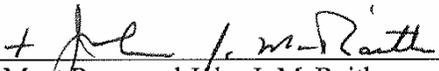
Sincerely,



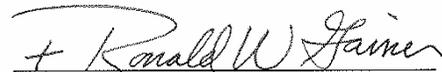
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+ Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro



+ Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Lexington



+Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia

cc: The Honorable Steve Beshear
Governor, Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
Governor, State of West Virginia
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305