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Tom Closson
President and CEO
Ontario Hospital Association
200 Front Street West, Suite 2800
Toronto, ON M5V 3L1

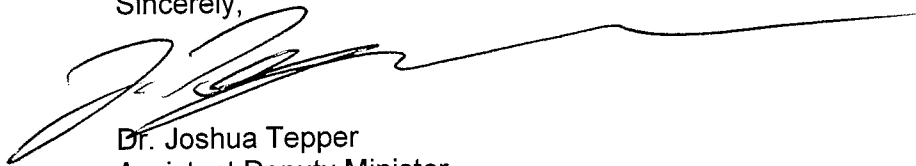
Dear Mr. Closson: *Tom,*

As you are aware, the Hospital Annual Planning Submissions (HAPS) has been revised in response to concerns raised by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA).

The ministry remains committed to ensuring patients get the best care possible in all settings including hospitals and has consistently communicated the value of interprofessional, collaborative teams (nurses, doctors, pharmacists and other health disciplines) in the delivery of quality health care to Ontarians. Additionally, new and expanded health care provider roles have been integrated in the system based on the principle of augmenting, rather than substituting or replacing one provider over another. The ministry has supported nursing models of care delivery that maintain continuity of caregiver, including our on going commitment and our continuous movement to 70 per cent full-time employment of nurses.

Your assistance with communicating the ministry's position and the revisions to the HAPS document and to the Ontario Hospital Association membership would be most appreciated. In your communication we would appreciate it if you would also direct hospitals to your website where the revised HAPS is posted. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to building a strong and stable healthforce in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joshua Tepper
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c. Ken Deane, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System and Accountability Performance Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Sandra Hamner, Chief Executive Officer, Waterloo Wellington LHIN
Doris Grinspun, Executive Director, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Linda Haslam-Stroud, President, Ontario Nurses' Association