



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

April 27, 2020

Paul G. Ramsey, MD
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, Dean of the School of Medicine
CEO, UW Medicine

Ana Mari Cauce, PhD
President, University of Washington

RE: UW Residents Deserve a Fair Contract Now

Dear University of Washington School of Medicine,

We, the undersigned members of the Seattle City Council, write to urge you to negotiate an equitable contract with the residents and fellows of UW Medicine. Since its escalation, the COVID-19 crisis has thrust our region into chaos. Our friends, families, and neighbors are all scared; and this pandemic poses the most serious public health threat to our community in over a century. We all collectively express our gratitude to the role UW Medicine has played in tackling the spread of the infection. We know that the doctors, nurses, and lab technicians have been working tirelessly to try to contain the disease and keep the pandemic from growing worse by the day.

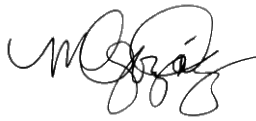
We are particularly struck by the hard work being done by the medical residents at the forefront of UW Medicine's response to this epidemic. We have so much respect for these residents, who work in excess of eighty hours a week to care for their patients. In the midst of a public health crisis, these residents are truly on the frontlines, working 28-30 hour shifts to do their best to alleviate the enormous strain that our healthcare system is under right now. Many of these residents live and raise their families in our city.

Since summer of 2019, the medical residents and fellows employed by UW Medicine have been working under an expired contract. It is concerning that these healthcare providers, who are so crucial to the wellbeing of our communities, have not been offered an equitable contract appropriately valuing their hard work, dedication, and commitment. Cost of living in Seattle is relatively high compared to the rest of the country and we fear we will lose quality doctors if

they are not paid enough to live and stay in Seattle. Failing to negotiate such a contract will have long term impacts on our region.

The Seattle City Council urges you, the leadership of the UW School of Medicine, to make an equitable offer to the residents and fellows who serve as vital caretakers in the hospitals and clinics we visit. The work they do and the care they provide is essential to this region's health, especially in the midst of the public health crisis that coronavirus poses. Please give them a fair contract.

Sincerely,



Council President M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss