

February 11, 2022

New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514

Dear Commissioners:

The health care sector consistently has far more job openings than any other industry. Connecticut, like other New England states, is facing significant shortages in health care workers particularly in nursing, nursing assistants, skilled technician roles, and long-term and home health care. I believe that CT State Community College will help address this demand through its strong educational programs. As one of the state's largest employers, Masonicare welcomes the opportunity to work with what will be one of Connecticut's largest institutions for higher education.

As the pandemic illustrated, the resiliency of the healthcare system is wholly dependent on its skilled workforce. We cannot meet the lingering challenges of COVID 19 or be prepared for the future without skilled workers. The Nursing and Allied Health programs at the campuses are an important source of hiring for Masonicare and will continue to be after the consolidation.

As Connecticut's 12 community colleges prepare to become one CT State Community College with 12 locations, we affirm that having a single, statewide institution with consistent offerings and aligned curricula will be critical in meeting Connecticut's health care workforce needs and will make CT State a stronger partner for Masonicare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Dooling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward J. Dooling

Chief Human Resource Officer

Masonicare
