[Your Name/Business/Organization]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Date]

The Honorable Maura Healey
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the future of housing development and affordability in Norwood and the surrounding communities if Norwood Hospital is not reopened as an acute care hospital with emergency services. The lack of this critical healthcare facility has far-reaching implications that directly hinder efforts to address the housing crisis—a cornerstone of your administration's agenda.

Norwood Hospital has historically played an integral role in supporting the infrastructure that makes our region a viable place to live, work, and invest. Without it, the region faces compounding challenges that will make it increasingly difficult to create and sustain affordable and accessible housing. These challenges include:

### **1. Reduced Attractiveness for Housing Development**

Developers carefully assess the availability of essential services, including healthcare, when planning new residential projects. The absence of a full-service acute care hospital significantly diminishes Norwood’s appeal for housing development, particularly for projects aimed at workforce and family housing.

### **2. Strain on Emergency and Healthcare Accessibility**

A community's capacity to accommodate growth hinges on access to reliable emergency and healthcare services. Without Norwood Hospital, existing residents are already facing longer wait times and travel distances for critical care. Adding new housing units without resolving this gap will only exacerbate the strain on regional healthcare infrastructure and undermine efforts to build a sustainable community.

### **3. Increased Resistance to New Housing Development**

Communities are more likely to resist new housing projects if local services, including healthcare, are perceived as inadequate. Without Norwood Hospital, residents are likely to push back against housing developments, citing concerns about overburdened healthcare systems and reduced quality of life.

### **4. Economic Instability for the Workforce**

The lack of a nearby hospital not only diminishes quality of life but also jeopardizes economic stability for current and prospective residents. This is particularly problematic for lower-income families and essential workers, who are already vulnerable to housing insecurity and are less likely to move to an area without adequate healthcare.

### **5. Impact on Long-Term Affordability**

The absence of a nearby hospital could drive up the cost of living as healthcare becomes more difficult to access. This would make the region less affordable over time, compounding the housing affordability crisis and undermining efforts to attract diverse and economically balanced populations.

### **A Call to Action**

The reopening of Norwood Hospital as an acute care hospital with emergency services is essential to creating the conditions necessary for sustainable housing growth and affordability. Without this critical facility, the housing crisis in our region will deepen, and your administration’s efforts to expand housing options will face significant barriers.

We urge your immediate intervention to ensure that Norwood Hospital is reopened with the comprehensive healthcare services our community requires. Your leadership is vital to ensuring that Norwood and the surrounding areas can meet the growing demand for housing while maintaining the quality of life that residents deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We stand ready to work with your administration to address these challenges and develop solutions that prioritize both housing and healthcare for our community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Title/Organization, if applicable]
[Contact Information]

[Signatures or additional supporters, if applicable]