**Secretary Kiame Mahaniah**Executive Office of Health & Human Services
One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Secretary Mahaniah,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of Health and Human Services. I’m writing as a concerned Massachusetts resident to urge your office to prioritize the reopening of Norwood Hospital- a critical regional acute healthcare facility that has remained closed since June 2020.

Prior to its closure, Norwood Hospital served over 430,000 residents across more than 20 cities and towns. Since the flood, the site has been left in limbo. The building is owned by **Medical Properties Trust (MPT)**, a national hospital real estate company. The former operator, **Steward Health Care**, walked away and later filed for bankruptcy in 2024, formally surrendering the hospital’s license.

Although construction has resumed, there is **no licensed hospital operator, no approved Determination of Need (DoN), and no public plan for reopening**. The impact on surrounding communities has been severe- ambulances are stretched thin, ER wait times have grown, and patients without cars or financial flexibility face dangerous delays in care.

The closure of Norwood Hospital has created a public health crisis. Emergency response times have increased dramatically, with local ambulances making round trips of 45 minutes or more to the nearest emergency departments. **Meanwhile, private companies- Medical Properties Trust (MPT) and Steward Health Care-** **have profited while communities have been left without a hospital**. This is a clear example of how corporate decisions can endanger public health, and why urgent state-level action is needed.

As Secretary, your leadership can help bring real solutions to this crisis. I respectfully urge you to:

* Publicly support the return of a full-service acute care hospital to Norwood
* Work with DPH to ensure a timely, transparent DoN process
* Help identify and support a new operator to restore vital services

The people of this region deserve better—and I believe your leadership can help deliver the long-overdue progress we need.

Sincerely,