



February 18, 2026

Natalie Pierre, MPP Burlington
306-3027 Harvester Rd.
Burlington, ON L7N 3G7

CC:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
- Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP North Burlington
- Hon. Karina Gould, MP Burlington
- Hon. Adam van Koeverden, MP North Burlington

Dear Ms. Pierre,

We are writing to you in regard to the drastic budget cuts by the provincial government in healthcare. Ontario spends the least amount per capita on hospitals compared to all the other provinces and territories. It has the fewest hospital beds in Canada and is funded below the rate of inflation. The health care budget has been repeatedly underspent by \$1.25 billion. This causes many ramifications including long waiting times in emergency departments, hallway medicine, nurses caring for too many patients and unused operating rooms.

In the meantime, the government has redirected over \$1 billion in public funding to private for-profit clinics, hospitals and for-profit staffing agencies. This costs more money, is less efficient and the outcomes are poorer. It also does not get rid of wait times which are caused by lack of funding.

There are many needs and ways to solve this problem. Some are:

1. Running operating rooms for longer hours and on weekends.
2. Improving home care.
3. Increasing LTC spaces.
4. Creating supportive housing.
5. Increasing in patient beds.
6. Reducing unnecessary testing.
7. Doing better preventative care and early intervention.

If Ontario were to fund to the average of the rest of Canada, this crisis could be resolved. Ontarians do not want a two-tier system with extra billing for patient services.

We also have concerns with regard to Pharmacare. Since the legislation was passed in October 2024, 7.5 million people in PEI, Manitoba, the Yukon and BC have been benefiting from this program. It's time that the

people in Ontario were included. They should not have to make difficult decisions as to whether to cut back on medication in order to afford healthy food, rent or utilities. It's time to take the first step for diabetes and contraceptive medications.

Please let us know how and when your government will meet these pressing needs.

Respectfully,

Ruth Levkoe, President CFUW Burlington