



EDWARD GIBBS
Assemblyman 68th District

THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF
NEW YORK ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Correction
Mental Health
Science and Technology
Tourism, Parks, Arts
& Sports Development

June 15, 2022

Dennis C. Charney, MD
Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
1468 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10029

Beverley Brakeman
Regional Director
United Auto Workers, Region 9
8000 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48214

Dear Dr. Charney and Regional Director Brakeman:

As the Assemblymember representing the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, I write regarding the potential unionization of the postdoctoral fellows at the School. We want to reinforce the importance of good faith bargaining to the employees and the community.

There are over 500 postdoctoral fellows at the institution that have been a driving force behind the research missions of Mount Sinai. Postdoctoral fellows work in diverse fields ranging from seeking cures for cancer, to expanding our understanding the human brain. They continue to perform cutting-edge research and development work that brings in more than \$400 million in federal grant funding to the University every year. Their hard work has led the Association of American Medical Colleges to recognized Mount Sinai as one of the top NIH grant-earning institutions of 2022.

We understand that 80% of postdoctoral fellows at Mount Sinai have signed authorization cards in support of representation by the Sinai Postdoctoral Organization Committee (SPOC-UAW) and filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This move is not unprecedented as there has been a national movement of researcher unionization across several university campuses.

While this process may lead to challenging conversations, we urge both parties to engage in good faith compromise and bargaining. Thank you both for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Gibbs
Member of Assembly
District 68