



Berkshire Health Systems, Inc.

725 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 447-2000

December 13, 2022

Dr. Claire MacDonald, DNP, RN
Executive Director
Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA.02108

Dear Dr. MacDonald:

In light of the recent letter that Ellen Kennedy, President of Berkshire Community College, sent to MABORN, I am writing to re-affirm Berkshire Health System's (BHS) support for Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' (MCLA) new baccalaureate nursing (BSN) program. MCLA is addressing the most-in demand employer need in the county, supporting a variety of healthcare services in our rural community.

Despite President Kennedy's concerns, BHS remains committed to working with MCLA as they develop their new BSN program by providing a variety of experiential clinical learning opportunities for their nursing students as well as the opportunity for employment upon successful completion of the program and thus strengthening our workforce with much needed baccalaureate-prepared nurses. BHS will expand clinical placements for MCLA students, in addition to what we already provide for BCC students, so that we all respond to the pressing need for more highly qualified nurses in our region.

Berkshire Health Systems is the Berkshire County region's leading provider of comprehensive healthcare services. With award-winning programs, nationally recognized physicians, world-class technology and a sincere commitment to the community, BHS is delivering the kind of advanced healthcare most commonly found in large metropolitan centers.

A private, not-for-profit organization, BHS serves the region through a network of affiliates which include Berkshire Medical Center, the BMC Hillcrest Campus, the North Adams Campus of BMC, Fairview Hospital, Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association, and BMC and Fairview physician practices. Each of these facilities is distinguished by the high quality of their programs and services, and by the credentials, skill and compassion of their physicians, nurses, and caregivers.

We look forward to being an active participant in the achievement of the clinical objectives of this new BSN program and are pleased to support MCLA's vision for the future of baccalaureate nursing education in our community.

Sincerely,

Darlene Rodowicz
President and CEO