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A Union of Nurses & Health Professionals

Affiliated with AFL-CIO

November 12, 2026

State Medical Board of Ohio

RE: Formal Complaint Against John J. Warner, MD — Failure to Address Foreseeable Patient Safety Risks and Concerns Regarding Professional Responsibilities

Dear Members of the State Medical Board of Ohio:

We are submitting this complaint requesting an investigation into the professional conduct of John J. Warner, MD, Chief Executive Officer of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, concerning his responsibility to protect patients from foreseeable and preventable risks associated with inadequate hospital staffing.

Under Dr. Warner's executive leadership, the medical center is experiencing significant operational disruptions, including reported cancellations of open-heart surgeries and other procedures, closures of critical care beds, limitations on patient admissions and transfers, and increasingly concerning nursing assignments.

These conditions create unnecessary and foreseeable risks to patient safety and access to timely medical care.

Recent reports from frontline health professionals describe:

- Postponement or cancellation of surgical procedures attributed to insufficient staffing.
- Closure of intensive care beds despite ongoing demand for critical care services.
- Reports of patients being unable to access certain specialized services because staffed capacity was unavailable.
- Nursing assignments that raise serious concerns about the ability to provide appropriate clinical monitoring and timely intervention.
- Reports of patient falls and emergency response activations occurring during periods of significant staffing deficiencies, warranting investigation into whether staffing played a contributing role.

These concerns have been repeatedly communicated through established reporting and escalation channels. Nurses have documented unsafe assignments and called for intervention, placing hospital leadership on notice of the risks.

The central issue is not whether every adverse outcome can be attributed to staffing deficiencies. It is whether Dr. Warner, having been placed on notice of serious and foreseeable patient safety risks, exercised appropriate professional judgment and leadership to address them.

We recognize that hospital operations involve complex decisions. However, those complexities do not eliminate the obligation of licensed healthcare professionals to act responsibly when patient safety is at risk.

We are particularly concerned that continued staffing deficiencies and interruptions in access to necessary medical services may expose patients to avoidable delays, deterioration, or other preventable consequences.

We request that the Board investigate Dr. Warner's knowledge of these conditions, his role in relevant decisions, the adequacy of corrective actions, and whether any acts or omissions fall below the professional standards applicable to an Ohio-licensed physician.

The absence of a conclusively established patient injury does not make a foreseeable and preventable safety risk acceptable.

Patients should not have to suffer an avoidable tragedy before questions of professional accountability are taken seriously.

We respectfully request that the Board determine whether Dr. Warner has fulfilled his professional responsibilities in the face of repeated, documented concerns about patient safety.

Respectfully,



Rick Lucas, BSN, RN, CCRN
President, Ohio Nurses Association