

**From:** [Maria LaFitte](#)  
**To:** [ClerkoftheBoard](#)  
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Supervisors,

I am speaking to you on behalf of family, patients, community as well as my fellow nurses. I am sure you have had family members or friends taken care of at VCMC, not only in the hospital, but in our clinics as well. I believe that you want the best care given to your family, friends, and neighbors. I have been a nurse for over 33 years and I'm proud to belong to the VCMC family. Our mission statement tells us to treat our patients with dignity and respect. In turn, we would like to be treated with respect for what we do for our community as nurses. I was a young nurse when I started at VCMC and always believed that we reap what we sow. With that being said, we are asking for higher wages to be able to compete with the other hospitals so that we can retain nurses and provide better care in our hospital and in our clinics. We ask that our loyalty be taken into account. The COLA is important and we should be able to get it. Caring nurses have stayed at the county for over 20 years and we want young nurses to stay longer and continue to provide safe patient care. Help us nurses deliver the best care possible in better conditions so that our nurses are not overworked and underpaid. I ask for you to consider higher wages and adding the COLA to our pension, as we nurses need you to make this happen.

Thank you for your time.

Appreciatively,  
Maria LaFitte RN