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Office of the International President

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Office of the Governor
Kansas Statehouse
300 SW 10th Avenue, Ste. 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM Union), which includes the IAM Healthcare Union, **I write to you today to request your prompt and proactive assistance. We are seeking to ensure all mail-in ballots postmarked within the election period are counted in two recent University of Kansas Pharmacy Technician Union Representation Elections.**

This request comes as we have learned the state's Public Employee Relation Board (PERB) has received 37 uncounted ballots. This means nearly 40% of all ballots received in the representation elections for Pharmacy Technicians at The University of Kansas (KU) Health System in Kansas City have not been counted because they were received after the vote count. These ballots, which were postmarked in a timely manner within the election period, raise serious questions about the integrity of the uncertified representation election results, and whether they accurately reflect the wishes of the workforce of Pharmacy Technicians.

These hardworking healthcare professionals chose to organize with IAM Healthcare because they want a voice to advocate for safe patient care and professional respect on the job. They deserve a fair opportunity to exercise their right to form a union and bargain collectively. That includes making sure every properly mailed, post-marked, and received ballot is counted in the state's representation election process. The election remains uncertified while the IAM Healthcare Union's objections are under review, and Pharmacy Technicians fell just two votes short of union representation in each election. Since the results were announced, the IAM Healthcare Union has submitted sworn affidavits from 31 Pharmacy Technicians stating that they completed and mailed their ballots before the deadline, but their votes were not counted.

It has also come to our attention that PERB staff have contacted KU Health System representatives to inquire as to whether the employer would agree to count the otherwise valid, late-arriving ballots or re-run the election. We agree that a mutually agreed upon process regarding counting the validly post-marked ballots would be best. However, the effect of posing this question to the employer, and giving suggested options of counting the ballots or having a re-run election, may give the employer the impression that they have the power to decide the election process. This is concerning particularly in this case given the KU Health

System's unlawful union-busting campaign, which is the subject of multiple prohibited practice charges pending review by PERB. For these reasons, it is the union's position that the PERB has a responsibility, as the body responsible for administering a free and fair election process, to make the determination that the ballots should be counted, regardless of whether or not both parties agree.

For those reasons, we seek assistance from the Governor's Office. Please take immediate action to ensure the PERB counts ALL mail-in ballots from eligible voters that are properly post-marked within the election period.

For questions, please reach out to IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bryant", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Bryant
IAM International President