

December 9, 2024

John J. Warner, MD

Chief Executive Officer of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical and Executive Vice President at Ohio State

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

370 West 9th Ave, Suite 200

Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Thomas,

I am writing to you on behalf of Ohio University, the largest regional employer in Southeast Ohio, to express our concern regarding the ongoing negotiations between The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield.

As you are aware, our employees and their families rely on Anthem for their healthcare coverage. The Wexner Medical Center is a trusted and critical healthcare provider for our rural community, offering access to specialized care that is not readily available elsewhere in our region. A prolonged impasse in these negotiations could significantly disrupt access to care for hundreds of our employees and their dependents, placing undue stress on their health and well-being.

Ohio University deeply values the vital role that the Wexner Medical Center plays in advancing healthcare and serving communities across the state. We recognize the complexity of negotiations like these, but we urge all parties to prioritize reaching a resolution that maintains access to affordable, high-quality care for the families who depend on it.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to the health of all Ohioans, including those in Southeast Ohio. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is any way we can assist in advocating for a positive outcome.

Sincerely,

Lori Stewart Gonzalez, President

Ohio University

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December 9, 2024

Jane Peterson
President, Ohio Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
4361 Irwin Simpson Rd, Mason, OH 45040

Dear Jane Peterson,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am reaching out as President of Ohio University, the largest regional employer in southeast Ohio, to express our deep concern regarding the ongoing negotiations between Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

As you are aware, Ohio University employs thousands of individuals who rely on Anthem for their health insurance coverage. The current uncertainty surrounding these negotiations places a significant burden on our employees and their families, who depend on access to the exceptional care provided by the Wexner Medical Center.

Access to high-quality healthcare is critical for our rural community's well-being and productivity, including continued access to innovative cancer care and clinical trials that offer cutting-edge treatments and hope for patients. A prolonged lack of resolution could lead to unnecessary stress, financial challenges, and disruptions in care for countless individuals who already face barriers to healthcare in our region. This situation disproportionately impacts those who require ongoing treatment or have scheduled procedures, creating a ripple effect of uncertainty and hardship.

We recognize the complexities involved in these negotiations and the challenges faced by both parties. However, we urge Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center to come to a resolution swiftly. Finding common ground in these discussions is essential for ensuring uninterrupted access to healthcare for those who depend on it most.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We value the critical role Anthem plays in providing coverage and trust that a solution can be reached in the best interests of all parties involved.

Sincerely,
Lori Stewart Gonzalez, President
Ohio University