



For Immediate Release

Dan Sullivan

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Dan Sullivan Calls for Accountability in the Healthcare Crisis

Plymouth — Dan Sullivan, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in Massachusetts' 9th District, is calling out the Massachusetts Democratic Party and its top officials for their failure to act on the harmful actions of Steward Healthcare's CEO Ralph de la Torre. Despite clear warning signs and concerns raised by healthcare professionals, including hospital staff, state leaders chose to turn a blind eye while de la Torre and Cerberus Capital Management systematically stripped assets from the Steward healthcare system.

"In the wake of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), private equity firms saw an opportunity to exploit the new healthcare payment model by cutting costs and profiting from hospital admissions," Sullivan said. "Ralph de la Torre recognized this opportunity early on and positioned himself as a major donor to the Massachusetts Democratic Party. He knew that political connections could shield his actions, and unfortunately, that's exactly what happened."

De la Torre, who led the transformation of the non-profit Caritas Christi Health Care into the for-profit Steward Healthcare in 2010 under the ownership of Cerberus Capital Management, made maximum financial contributions to prominent Massachusetts Democrats, including Governor Maura Healey and Senator Ed Markey. "Both as Attorney General and as Governor, Maura Healey had a duty to protect the public from exactly this kind of corporate abuse, but instead, her campaign benefited from de la Torre's donations. The same is true for Senator Markey, who also received maximum donations," Sullivan added.

Sullivan's statement comes in response to growing concerns about the long-term viability of Steward Healthcare. Employees and medical professionals have expressed serious concerns over Steward's cost-cutting measures, which included reductions in medical equipment, supplies, and staffing levels. "As a former healthcare professional, I can attest that many of these actions endangered patient safety," said Sullivan. "Steward's bankruptcy didn't occur in a vacuum. It unfolded over years, and those in power knew or should have known about it."

Despite numerous letters and warnings sent by Steward employees to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and elected officials, Sullivan claims that their voices were ignored. "The leadership of Governor Healey and Senator Markey should be judged not by whether they were always right but whether they acted in good faith with prudence and responsibility. Their acceptance of large donations from de la Torre while Steward was in decline shows a failure of leadership," Sullivan concluded.

Dan Sullivan is running for Congress to bring greater accountability and transparency to our government and to ensure that political leaders are serving the people, not powerful donors. For more information, visit [www.nursedanforcongress.org](http://www.nursedanforcongress.org)