

Dear President Bacow,

We, the undersigned members of the Somerville Board of Aldermen, are writing to inform you of our support for the contracted janitors who work at Tufts University. These janitors are hard-working individuals, many of whom came to the United States of America looking for better work and better lives. These workers labor throughout the day, and some even through the night, to support their loved ones. As contracted janitors at your university ask for more just wages, more affordable healthcare, and more full-time work, we ask that you acknowledge and thank the contributions of these workers by allocating resources at your school to your cleaning contractor so that these requests are met.


As energy prices drastically rise, and coupled with the inflation our country now faces, these workers must earn more money in order to make ends meet. Yet, while janitors are struggling to support their families, a recent study by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center shows the opposite is true of higher income families. In their report *The Growing Gap: Income Inequality in Massachusetts*, they found that over the past two decades, the top fifth of income earners in the state saw a 77% increase in annual income, while the lowest fifth saw only a 16% increase in the annual income. Our country was a nation founded on principles of equality, yet dramatic disparity still exists in Massachusetts.

We understand many of the workers at Tufts are only offered part-time work. While this may allow increased flexibility in the day-to-day cleaning operations of your facilities, it comes at an extremely heavy price to the workers. Part-time workers are not eligible for benefits, and are therefore barred from critical healthcare coverage and a pension plan for their retirement. In an era where healthcare costs have become astronomical, healthcare coverage is essential to stay afloat. When these contracted janitors, or a member of their family get sick, it is imperative that they have some type of system that will look after them. Furthermore, workers must take other part-time jobs in order to support their families, causing them to work day and night and affording them precious time to spend with their loved ones. As family is one of the most essential and basic units of our society, we ask you to advocate for these workers by doing everything in your power to grant them full-time work.

We acknowledge that these workers are employed by the cleaning contractor American Building Maintenance. Yet as a client, you have a voice in how the contractor conducts their business. We commend your signing of the Talloures Declaration and your commitment of Tufts to promote social justice and equality. Therefore, we respectfully ask you to carefully consider the contracted janitors' pleas and do everything in your power to make sure these workers receive a just wage increase and full-time work.

Sincerely,

Dennis Michael Sullivan


(William M. Noels)

Robbark Gantz, Novak

William M Noels, W/ACD 1



 William M. Noels
 Dennis Michael Sullivan