



**SHARON DURKAN**  
**OFFICE OF BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 8**

Wednesday, March 5, 2024

Boston City Council Council  
1 City Hall Square, Room 550  
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Council President Louijeune,

I wanted to extend my sincere regrets for my absence from today's Council meeting. As you read this letter into the record, I am currently in our nation's capital watching Mayor Wu testify before Congress, defending Boston's unwavering commitment as a sanctuary city—a position that our Council unanimously reaffirmed. As you know, the city council doesn't pay for these trips.

I am also taking this opportunity to make sure our unanimous voices in advocating as a Council to condemn NIH funding cuts are amplified, which is one of the most critical issues facing Boston. Boston leads the nation in medical research, and the proposed cuts threaten not only scientific progress but also thousands of jobs and life-saving treatments. Today, I am meeting with Senator Markey, members of our congressional delegation and other leaders.

While I regret missing today's meeting, I remain committed to ensuring that Boston's values and priorities are defended. I look forward to reviewing the tape of the meeting, should anything arise that requires followup from my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Durkan".

Sharon Durkan  
Boston City Councilor, District 8