



A United Voice for Doctors, Our Patients, & the Communities We Serve

March 21, 2019

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Dear Hospital Presidents,

We write to you today out of critical concern for the safety and well-being of New York City area hospital patients and local communities. We also write in support of the NYSNA nurses.

It has come to our attention that more than 10,000 New York City area nurses are currently working with expired labor contracts at your hospitals. We understand that negotiations are not proceeding well, as you have refused to discuss critical issues related to staffing and working conditions raised by your registered nurses. Registered nurses working in your hospitals have expressed to us that they are losing patience with your refusal to seriously address their concerns, most importantly their demands for improved minimum staffing standards. The lack of progress in bargaining has led recently to a day of city-wide picketing, which was widely reported in the press. We have further noted that your nurses' frustration has now reached the point that the nurses are actively engaged in strike votes all over the city. This situation is very alarming to us.

To make matters worse, we understand that hospitals across New York City are in the process of contracting with replacement nurses. We firmly believe that continuity of quality care and best practices are better ensured with the care provided by the regular nurses. The NYSNA nurses who live in our communities who have worked tirelessly for years in providing vital health services should be the ones caring for our communities. This is better for the patients and communities.

We strongly encourage you to take the money that would be spent on any temporary nurses and apply that toward settling the contract with the nurses and their union- NYSNA. We also strongly urge you to take your efforts and energy and focus on engaging with the NYSNA nurses on bargaining issues, especially staffing and working conditions, and settle the contacts.

We call on you, as Chief Executive Officers and leadership of our local hospital systems to avoid this shutdown of our hospitals and work constructively with the NYSNA nurses to reach fair agreements. Hospitals will be held accountable for the results of any unnecessary disruption in vital hospital care. The time has come to engage in serious negotiations to avert an unnecessary catastrophe for our communities and the patients that rely on our hospitals.

Sincerely,

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