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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NURSES FILE FOR UNION REPRESENTATION BY THE  
OREGON NURSES ASSOCIATION**

NEWBERG, Ore. (April 10, 2015) – Providence Newberg Medical Center (PNMC) nurses filed cards today with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), authorizing the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) to represent them in collective bargaining. An overwhelming majority, 72 percent of nurses representing all shifts and departments, signed ONA authorization cards.

When informing medical center administrators of their decision, PNMC nurses stated their commitment to providing excellent patient care, their desire to develop an infrastructure that provides direct care staff input into decisions affecting the delivery of patient care as well as the importance of ensuring all staff nurses are treated fairly and have access to due process.

Valerie Whitmore, RN, PNMC said, “When I came to Providence Newberg 12 years ago, nurses could bring issues forward to administration and they would respond as partners in caring for our patients. This relationship degraded as the years passed and I, like many of colleagues, became concerned about my ability to safely care for my patients and provide them with the quality of care they deserve. I know that if one of my patients has an adverse outcome due to my high patient load, the responsibility for their well-being is still mine. So for me, ONA union affiliation resonates because it provides the strong voice of an advocate in conversations with administrators.”

NLRB staff will now review the nurses’ authorization cards to verify a required receipt of 30 percent of nurses’ signatures from the medical center has been met. When verified, the NLRB will notify both PNMC and ONA and the process will move forward.

ONA currently represents seven Providence acute care facilities throughout Oregon.

ONA was founded in 1904 as the professional association for nurses in Oregon. It is a nonprofit association and a labor union representing registered nurses. ONA’s mission is to advocate for nursing and quality health care.

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