Hello, ONA Nurses at Providence Milwaukie Hospital.

Today our bargaining team held their first negotiating session with Providence over our hospital contract. ONA made two proposals – one which would incorporate enforceable staffing ratios, considering acuity and complexity, into our contract. Management’s repeated insistence that they “follow the law” regarding nurse staffing has done little to end the dangerous practice of buddy breaking, protect nurses from missed breaks and lunches, and relieve charge nurses of unsafe patient loads that undermine their leadership role on the floor.

Additionally, your bargaining team made a proposal to bring Milwaukie’s membership language into compliance with every single other ONA Providence contract. Our SEIU co-workers fought hard for a first contract, and in doing so won some standards above our current contract. For example, the SEIU contract honors the commitment that their members make to their union by requiring all represented employees to choose between union membership or paying fair share dues. We are seeking the same standard won by our SEIU co-workers at PMH.

Unfortunately, hospital administration refused to make any proposals, offer any counters, or even discuss our priority proposal concerning safe -- enforceable staffing levels. After delaying negotiations for months after we asked to meet, their lawyer aggressively tried to rush your bargaining team into a snap negotiation timeline. Additionally, we filed a request for information that Providence is required to provide, so we can finish our economic proposals. We await a response.

Join the next negotiating session as an observer: Wednesday, April 20 at 9 a.m. in the Providence Willamette Falls Community Center, 519 15th St, Oregon City, OR 97045.

If you have any questions, please contact your ONA labor rep, Gabriel Erbs, at Erbs@OregonRN.org.