Bargaining Enters Third Session

We met for our third of five scheduled negotiation sessions on Dec. 11, 2017.

The Providence Medford Medical Center (PMMC) negotiation team was able to offer proposals on seven articles of the contract for discussion. They proposed decreasing the “introductory period” from 180 days to 90 days which is a system preference. They also provided a counterproposal to the preceptor language we proposed during our first session. They proposed language in Article 9 which would not count any non-productive time (education, meetings, etc.) in your weekly calculation for determining overtime compensation. PMMC did offer an improvement to the standby/callback provision which would allow up to an hour (if needed for travel time) to return when called in while on standby.

They offered a proposal on Article 6 regarding scheduling and staffing in relationship to the Unit-Based Practice Councils (UBPC) and suggested that the hospital policy and Oregon Hospital Nurse Staffing Law—as well as changes to electronic scheduling—are adequate and that the significant language we proposed and any limit in the contract would be too restrictive.

We were able to return counter proposals on all of the articles the hospital provided except for Article 6, as we received that article at the end of the bargaining day.

All in all, the session was professional and productive. We were able to have clear discussions regarding the reasons for proposals, and the goals and potential outcomes of those proposals.
Oregon voters will face a decision on whether or not to protect health care for more than 350,000 children, adults with disabilities, seniors, and low-income families in a special election Jan. 23, 2018.

Measure 101 asks voters to uphold the bipartisan Oregon Healthcare Protections Bill which the legislature passed in the 2017 legislative session. Nurses, hospitals, insurers, Democrats and Republicans all supported the bill in order to fund health care and lower premiums for more than half a million Oregonians.

Voting YES on Measure 101 means protecting health care for Oregonians who otherwise couldn’t afford care and are too often forced to go to the emergency room when they are sick. If the measure fails, thousands of our most vulnerable patients will be in jeopardy of losing their health care.

It is critical we stand together to protect Oregon families by supporting Measure 101 in the Jan. 23 special election.

Learn more, get involved, and add your name to pledge to vote YES on Measure 101 at:

www.OregonRN.org/YesOnMeasure101