By most accounts, Tuesday’s informational picket in front of PPMC will be the biggest action at PPMC in our union’s history. **Now over 1300 nurses strong, ONA nurses at PPMC will be assembling, along with community supporters, at 4:30 p.m. by NE 49th and Glisan to deliver a clear message to Providence.** That message is that we must improve RN wages and benefits, establish adequate staffing for sustainable nursing careers, and Providence must listen to direct care nurses when we speak up about what we need.

The informational picket will also be an important test of the strength of our union. As important as anything we win in this contract is the kind of union we build through bargaining. **Union power is about creating a culture of democracy and a culture where people stand up for one another and lift each other up.**

We’ve shown Providence that 80% of nurses support an informational picket. Can we show Providence that we can turn out in force to stand up for every nurse who is struggling with healthcare costs, who has exhausted their leave caring for themselves or a family member, who is experiencing moral injury and burnout as a result of crisis staffing, and who works as hard as any nurse in the city of Portland but doesn’t have that effort reflected on their paycheck?

Since the sisters left and the MBAs came in, we’ve had years of benefit rollbacks and concessionary bargaining which resulted in cuts to the health plan, cuts to retirement, and the
removal of EIT just before the onset of a global pandemic. Since 2020, Providence’s response
to our repeated asks for relief has largely been indifference. Now they say they had to wait for
bargaining, while we’ve literally made it clear for years that something needed to be done
because people were leaving.

Well now is our time to act.

The next weeks will determine what kind of contract we get; and, short of a strike, this
informational picket will be our biggest demonstration of unity through bargaining.

With unprecedented participation in our union, we’ve already seen Providence make substantial
improvements to its bargaining positions. And through the same unprecedented participation,
picketing, and strike prep, we’ve already seen RNs at Providence’s St Vincent, Milwaukie,
Willamette Falls, and Hood River facilities make big gains in their contracts. Our presence at
the picket can show that we’re ready to carry that work forward and build momentum for
more improvements at the bargaining table.

Nurses across Providence have embarked upon a years-long effort to raise standards across
the system, to return Providence to a health system that puts workers and patients first. This is
our chance to show up and lift up nurses and healthcare workers in the Providence system. Can
we count on you to be a part of that?

Friends, family, other Providence workers, retirees, community supporters, and well-behaved
pets are welcome. They can sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsiRlq4l4lsvZsZTcgiKmdFhpFU68cwquMVz2vszPCxyZewQ/viewform?usp=sf_link