Unity Breaks Across the State

Nurses stepped up at worksites throughout Oregon last week to call on Providence executives to “Protect People, Not Profits” and expressed their frustration over Providence’s refusal to negotiate critical COVID-19 protections for nurses.

In a series of coordinated ‘unity breaks,’ nurses across hospitals gathered during breaks to register their displeasure at Providence’s foot-dragging.

“Every employee is affected not only by the world outside but by the decisions within the workplace. To truly show Providence cares about its values and is willing to live up to them, I would expect Providence to do everything within its power to protect and nurture its employees,” said Joseph Gorecki, RN at Providence Willamette Falls.

Medical leave denials, insufficient testing, and a recent proposal from Providence to accumulate ‘PTO debt’ motivated the collective actions, which drew out sizeable contingencies at the medical centers. In addition to increasing the public profile of their struggle for COVID-19 protections, nurses posed with campaign signs sporting messages such as “Work Safe, Not Sick” and “Providence Nurses Need COVID Testing.”

ONA Providence bargaining unit chairs are still waiting on Providence management to return to the bargaining table. To spread the word on our fight for COVID-19 Protections, and to support our critical bargaining proposals, please click here and share ONA’s social media about the successful unity breaks.
If you have any questions, please contact your ONA labor representative or visit the ONA Providence systemwide updates webpage here.