Notice Sent for Strikes Commencing at PPMC, PSH, and PHHH June 19

ONA bargaining teams ended mediation early this morning following 19 frustrating hours of minimal movement while Providence refuses to listen to urgent calls from nurses and clinicians.

Oregon’s largest health system and one of the largest nationally, Providence generates over $27 Billion in revenue nationally. Meanwhile, Providence executives’ failure to listen to frontline caregivers has led to a deepening staffing crisis and has eroded the standard of care across the healthcare continuum.

On the other side of the state, the much smaller St. Charles Health system reached an agreement early this morning with their nurses on a contract with historic wage increases and significant PTO improvements, avoiding a strike that was scheduled to start just days from now.

Providence’s proposals yesterday failed to appreciate those caregivers who have given the most to Providence.

Providence made no improvements to their recent wage proposal on the top end of the nurse wage scale, despite projected wage increases at other hospitals that would leave Providence dollars per hour behind area competitors. Even worse — their wage proposal at Seaside is even lower and does little to address the cost-of-living crisis for hospital, clinic, and home health nurses on the coast. Providence also refused to make permanent commitments to increase PTO (and one-time increases only to PPMC), and offered no change to healthcare benefits. Finally, Providence offered little on staffing and nothing that would change the landscape of chronic understaffing that leaves us constantly working short. Taken together, Providence’s proposal would worsen the retention crisis and further erode standards of care in both hospitals and community care settings.

Providence was unable to provide Home Health & Hospice clinicians with basic information to reach an agreement on wage scales and refuses to budge on unsafe staffing standards.
Whether they are unwilling or unable, Providence simply hasn’t done what’s necessary to reach an agreement with 1,800 nurses and clinicians, and time is rapidly running out. Caregivers have been preparing for negotiations for over a year and negotiating in earnest for more than 8 months. It’s simply inexcusable for Providence’s team of Administrators and lawyers to contribute to significant delays in negotiation progress.

**Our union will issue today 10-day notices of commencement of strikes at Providence Portland Medical Center, Providence Home Health and Hospice, and Providence Seaside Hospital beginning Monday, June 19.**

We hear your call to act, and we’re moving forward. We know that the collective bargaining process ends with an agreement on a successor contract, but we simply can’t accept what Providence is offering. We remain focused on securing agreements that appreciate our priorities and recognize our commitment to Providence and our communities’ patients. Meanwhile, we’re preparing for a five-day limited-duration strike beginning Monday, June 19.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

We simply couldn’t do this if we weren’t prepared to do it together, and your support keeps us going as we struggle forward. We could see the impacts of our unprecedented unity at the table last night, and we remain hopeful that we can reach an agreement on a fair contract. All three ONA bargaining teams are committed to negotiating during the 10-day notice period in hopes of reaching fair contract agreements that avert strikes. Bargaining is set to resume for PPMC on Tuesday, June 13, PSH on Wednesday, June 14, and PHHH Tuesday, June 20.

**Next Steps**

Commit now to join our picket lines and Strike Kick-Off Rally using the form below:

[www.oregonrn.org/strikeh](www.oregonrn.org/strikeh)

We need robust member participation on our line every day so our communities see the stand we are taking on their behalf.

We will publicly announce our intent to strike tomorrow morning in a 9 a.m. press conference at the Oregon AFL-CIO headquarters. You can join in person or watch via livestream on ONA’s Facebook page.