

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Nurses at ACMH Hospital Vote to Authorize a Strike**

*Management walking away from negotiations in the middle of a staffing crisis has compelled the nurses there to signal their willingness to strike to improve conditions for their patients and themselves.*

**Armstrong, PA** - Pushed to the brink by understaffing and forced to do more with much less, ACMH Hospital nurses, who have selflessly cared for the community for two long years during a dangerous and deadly pandemic, have said, "Enough!" with 94% of nurses voting to authorize a strike.

ACMH Nurses United has been in contract negotiations with their employer since the summer of 2021 with recruitment and retention of staff at the forefront of their stalled negotiations. Yesterday, they voted to authorize a strike, if necessary.

"We want to provide excellent care, and we can't do that when we aren't staffed appropriately and nurses are assigned too many patients at once," says Cassie Wood, R.N., a 12-year ACMH nurse and president of ACMH Nurses United. "This isn't a problem without a solution – the hospital can commit the necessary resources to the front lines, something a lot of hospitals are already doing, and it's why we find management's unwillingness to commit to these sorts of quality-of-care improvements incredibly frustrating."

ACMH Nurses United Vice-President Jerry Dunn, R.N., a 10-year ACMH veteran, agrees. "Nurses and patients have been battling this pandemic together," he says, "and we both need help – a lot more help than what the hospital has offered."

The strike authorization vote allows the union's Bargaining Committee to submit a 10-day strike notice to the hospital if they deem it necessary.

"We simply cannot attract and keep nurses with the conditions at the bedside the way they are now," says Mary Kilgore, R.N. "We want to provide better, safer care for our families, friends, and community for now and for the future, and to do that, we have to improve conditions at the bedside so nurses will come here and stay."

"For far too long, nurses and patients have been devalued and profits have been more important than people," adds Wood. "In our negotiations, my coworkers and I are putting nurses and patients first. It's well past time for the hospital to do the same."

ACMH Nurses United is an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents more than 9,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across the Commonwealth and was founded on the belief that patients receive the best care when clinical-care staff have a strong voice to advocate for both patients and themselves.

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