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**375 Nurses at Temple Health Jeanes Campus Vote Overwhelmingly to Authorize a Strike Notice**

***90% Of Nurses Voted YES***

**Philadelphia, PA** – After seven months of bargaining and working four months beyond an expired contract, the nurses at Temple Health’s Jeanes Campus in North Philadelphia have had enough. Temple has repeatedly rejected contract language that would ensure minimum safe staffing levels – a critical quality of care concern for Jeanes’ expansive patient community – and has refused to offer wages and compensation that will attract and retain nurses to Jeanes Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia and confer respect for the highly skilled nurses and the exemplary care they provide.

**After delivering a strike petition signed by a staggering percentage of their Members on February 14th, Jeanes Hospital nurses voted yesterday by an overwhelming majority to authorize their bargaining committee to submit a 10-day strike notice if these issues remain inadequately addressed.**

***\*\*\*90% voted YES to authorize a strike!\*\*\****

“We have very reasonable offers on the table, among them a proposal which would ensure safe staffing in the hospital,” says longtime Jeanes ICU Nurse Angie Cleghorn, RN, co-president of Jeanes Nurses United. “That’s what we want. That’s what our patients want. That’s what a hospital that cares about patient outcomes *should* want. We are honestly not sure why there’s such a disconnect between us and our administration here at Temple!”

Temple Health likes to tell its employees across its multiple campuses: “We are ONE TEMPLE,” using the tagline, “The Best Care, Wherever You Are.” But the employees’ experiences working at Temple Health’s satellite campuses don’t bear that out – a reality that has inspired a spate of recent organizing within the Temple Health System. **In the last nine months, nurses, technical specialists and professional employees at Fox Chase Cancer Center; nurses and technical specialists at Chestnut Hill Hospital; and technical specialists at Jeanes Hospital have all formed Unions in order to have a voice in advocating for their patients and better working conditions.**

“We are ONE TEMPLE” is the message shared with us by Temple Health President and CEO Michael Young, but that isn’t the reality at the bedside or at the bargaining table, where Temple administration has refused to recognize our staffing concerns or our contributions,” says longtime ICU Nurse and Jeanes Nurses United President Kim Wills-O’Connell, RN. “We need to be deliberate in maintaining nurses who

possess the core ingredients of care, compassion, and commitment to provide the full spectrum of patient-family centered care when they are at their most vulnerable. It's about respect, trust, and collaboration towards a unified goal. Unfortunately, Temple has failed to deliver. Now, the nurses of Jeanes Nurses United have sent a clear message they will not be complacent. They want to ensure a contract that guarantees conditions that will allow them to continue to provide quality patient care.”

“The nurses of Jeanes are committed to excellence in patient care and to being valued within the Temple Health System, and yesterday, we showed it,” says Melissa Faust-Savino, RN, a Jeanes PACU (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit) Nurse. “This week, we were told by Temple that Jeanes nurses provide ‘the very best, expert and compassionate care to our community’ – and also that we do not deserve to be paid for our efforts! It’s a slap in the face to all Jeanes nurses.

**“We are the lifeblood of our hospital. We are there for every joyous outcome; we are there for the worst days of our patients’ lives. We know what our patients need, and we know what we need in order to provide it. Listen to us, Temple. We are talking to you!”**

*The Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals (PASNAP), represents 10,000 frontline nurses and allied professionals across Pennsylvania and was founded on the belief that patients do better when critical care staff have a voice to advocate for their patients and themselves.*