



MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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NURSES AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN TO PICKET DURING NURSES WEEK

Nearly 500 St. Christopher's Nurses to Picket Outside Their Facility On **MONDAY, MAY 6TH – the Start of Nurses Week – to Call Out the Hospital's Willingness to Compromise Patient Care By Refusing to Prioritize Nurse Retention**

"St. Christopher's has become a stepping stone to CHOP. The way the hospital is run, It isn't a place most younger nurses stay, and that's not fair to our patients."

Philadelphia, PA – 485 nurses at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in contract negotiations will picket outside the hospital this **MONDAY, MAY 6TH**, the first day of Nurses Week 2024.

The theme for Nurses Week is "Nurses Make the Difference." At no hospital is this more true than St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, which provides care for Philadelphia's most vulnerable children, many of whom are burdened with significant barriers to care: no transportation, parents who don't speak English, parents who aren't able to stay with their children at the ER or inside the hospital because they don't get paid when they don't show up to work.

"These are barriers we see every single day," says Sue Swift, RN, President of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Nurses United, "so we run in circles to get our patients and their families what they need. Everything is against our patients' families – everything but the St. Chris caregivers."

Yet during bargaining, the hospital hasn't prioritized retention of these essential caregivers, instead insisting on eliminating staffing protections in the nurses' existing contract so that the hospital isn't accountable to safe staffing standards. RNs who work in chronically understaffed conditions risk their licenses on a daily basis, and nurse morale and quality of patient care suffers. Low wages at St. Christopher's compound the problem, and the hospital regularly hemorrhages nurses, who spend a couple years at St. Chris then move to CHOP.

"St. Christopher's has become a stepping stone to CHOP," says St. Christopher's Emergency Department Nurse Becky Murphy, RN, Vice President of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Nurses United. "The way the hospital is run, It isn't a place most younger nurses stay, and that's not fair to our patients."

Nurses participating in an informational picket are off work or on a break.

Summary of issues attached.

INFORMATIONAL PICKET
MONDAY, MAY 6TH, 2024

WHO	485 RNs who work at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
WHERE	Outside St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, 160 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134
WHEN	MONDAY, MAY 6TH 6 AM - 9 AM 11 AM - 1 PM RALLY WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS TO BEGIN AT NOON
WHY	At the core of the nurses’ negotiations are quality of care issues including unsafe staffing, respect for caregivers, and low retention rates for nurses. The nurses’ previous contract expired on January 31, 2024.

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Nurses United is an affiliate of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents more than 11,000 frontline nurses and healthcare 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.