

SEIU HEALTHCARE MINNESOTA • HEALTHPARTNERS BARGAINING UPDATE

STRIKE VOTE COVERAGE AND BACK TO THE BARGAINING TABLE

FEBRUARY 8, 2020 • UPDATE #6

Right before the press conference yesterday morning, we filed official notice to Andrea Walsh of our 7-day strike set to begin on February 19th, and we sent a copy of that notice to the federal mediator. Less than four hours later, we heard from the federal mediator that he would like to find a time for the union and management to get back to the negotiating table. After hearing back from management yesterday evening, I am pleased to let you know that we are heading back into negotiations on Tuesday.

Getting back to the bargaining table does not mean, of course, that management will drop their health concessions and their overtime changes, or that they'll offer you a reasonable wage increase. We certainly hope that they've heard the message of Thursday's vote loud and clear, and that we'll see major changes to their proposals on Tuesday. But we won't know whether that's the case until we get back to the table. All strike preparations and planning will continue in the meantime, because if we find on Tuesday that management continues to insist on cost-shifts and concessions, and on wage increases that don't even keep up with inflation, we will be starting our strike on the 19th.

Here are two quick things you can do this weekend, to help make sure HP management got the message from our overwhelming strike vote:

- Call and leave a message for Andrea Walsh at 952-883-5343 (it's the work number for Wendy Kobe, who manages her schedule – there's no direct line listed for Andrea). Let

her know how you feel about management's proposals – and that you hope they drop their concessions and offer us a reasonable wage increase on Tuesday.

- Ask friends and family to sign our public-support petition. We've already got over 1,000 signatures – let's double that in the next few days!

Finally: we've seen all the messages management sent out to you over the course of the day yesterday. While most of it was just repeating the same things they've been saying all week ("modest changes," "encouraging our colleagues to get care in affordable settings," desire to get back to negotiations, blaming the mediator, and of course those "financial headwinds"), in the late afternoon they added a bunch of new material about crossing picket lines and choosing to not stand together with your coworkers

in a strike. There's just one thing we want to say in response to all that, and it's a question to you: what do you think is management's goal in sending all that information out to you and your coworkers? What are they hoping it will achieve?

Just like we said in yesterday's update, when announcing the results of the strike-authorization vote: if we stand together, look out for one another, and act as one, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

The union bargaining team will of course update you on what happens when we're back at the table Tuesday.

When We Fight, We Win!

