



THE COMMITTEE FOR RECOGNITION OF NURSING ACHIEVEMENT

April 26, 2022

Update from Stanford Nurses: Bay Area Electeds Add Their Support

Elected officials across the Bay Area are calling on Stanford and Packard hospital administrators to recognize the burnout and exhaustion that has pushed nearly 5,000 nurses to go on strike and to rescind the decision to cut off health care for striking nurses. **Senator Dave Cortese**, representing San Jose and Santa Clara County communities in District 15, where Stanford and Packard have hospitals and clinics, shared in a statement:

“Today I’m proud to stand with thousands of nurses in their righteous fight for better and safer working conditions to protect both themselves and the patients they serve. I encourage everyone to listen to the needs of these frontline heroes who led us through the pandemic and call on Stanford to invest in their nursing staff that are suffering from extreme exhaustion and burnout. We know that our nurses are underpaid and under-appreciated. And that is exactly why I’m authoring Senate Bill 213 in the California Senate to make it easier for registered nurses and other health care workers to access the workers’ compensation system, in line with those protections afforded to other frontline professions. Please know that we stand together with you, by your side, calling for better pay, staffing conditions, and a healthier work environment.”

This follows [a letter](#) delivered to the hospitals by **Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Assemblymember Marc Berman and State Senator Josh Becker**, calling the hospital’s decision “out of step with the values that Stanford and Packard publicly advertise”. Over 30,000 people have [signed a petition](#) in support of CRONA nurses, calling on the CEOs to rescind this decision before May 1. Given the hospital’s strong financial standing, in part due to receiving millions in taxpayer-funded Covid-19 relief, **Menlo Park City Councilmember, Ray Mueller**, called the hospital’s move a “cruel union busting tactic.” He shared in a public statement:

“I’m proud to stand with the thousands of nurses striking for a fair contract and working conditions that will protect themselves and the patients they serve. With Stanford hospitals’ joint operating surplus increasing by \$676 million from 2020 to 2021, Stanford is actively choosing to ignore the frontline workers who supported our communities throughout the pandemic. Further, cutting health care to striking nurses is a cruel union busting tactic that is totally unwarranted. I urge Stanford to come back to the bargaining table ready to support the nurses at Stanford through a healthy working environment, safe staffing and better wages.”

Addressing the working conditions that are pushing nurses to the brink is key to establishing sustainability in the nursing profession and ensuring patient safety. As the country faces a massive shortage in nurses, recruitment and retention of nurses will be critical to ensuring a high-quality medical system.

Eileen Pachkofsky — Vice President of CRONA and a nurse at Lucile Packard for 16 years — shared her frustration with the [San Jose Mercury News](#) that the hospitals are offering traveling nurses higher salaries than the core nursing staff who have remained loyal employees:

“Nurses are leaving the profession because it’s taking a mental toll on us. We’ve been here for a long time, and when we see other people are making more than us, it just shows that Stanford doesn’t care and this is how they treat their employees. To us, it just shows us, ‘Why are we putting our lives out there, taking time away from our families, making all these sacrifices?’ It’s a slap in the face that we don’t get what we deserve.”

crona.org

499 Seaport Court, #202 • Redwood City, CA 94063

(650) 366-0156



THE COMMITTEE FOR RECOGNITION OF NURSING ACHIEVEMENT

Requesting support in obtaining fair contracts, CRONA [delivered a letter to the Board of Trustees](#) at Stanford Health Care and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and urged them to ask hospital administrators to immediately rescind their decision to cut health care benefits from striking nurses while negotiations are underway.

CRONA President Colleen Borges today reiterated the nurses' intent to reach the strongest contracts possible, saying, "We will continue to meet with the hospital bargaining team and the federal mediator and are committed to working hard to reach a fair agreement so we can return to caring for our patients."

Note for reporters: CRONA will not be sharing details of any mediated discussions occurring today. We will update you if there are public updates.

For inquiries, please email crona@berlinrosen.com.