

Jan. 2, 2025

AN OPEN LETTER TO OREGON'S ELECTED LEADERS

**Providence is putting patients at risk by illegally refusing to bargain with nearly 5,000 union-represented frontline caregivers.**

On January 10, thousands of Oregon's most trusted nurses, physicians and caregivers will lead an open-ended strike—the largest healthcare workers' strike in state history. This unparalleled action will affect all 8 Providence hospitals in Oregon as well as 6 Providence Women's Clinics. It will impact Oregonians throughout the Portland metro area, on the Coast, in the Gorge, in Southern Oregon and beyond.

For the first time in our state's history, frontline nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, and midwives throughout the Providence system have voted to stand together to win fair contracts that will give patients more time with their doctors and healthcare providers; promote safe staffing; end cuts to employees' healthcare; and provide competitive wages and benefits to recruit and retain essential frontline nurses and caregivers.

Five thousand frontline healthcare providers are ready and willing to sacrifice to protect our patients and our colleagues—but striking is not our first choice.

Many nurses and healthcare professionals have been bargaining with Providence for more than 15 months and working without a contract for a year. We are disheartened by Providence's stalling tactics but energized and ready to stand up for patients and communities across Oregon. We have offered to meet with Providence executives anywhere and anytime to negotiate a fair agreement and avert a strike.

**Unfortunately, Providence executives are refusing to continue negotiations with us—making a resolution impossible and putting patients at risk.** Refusing to meet with their workers to bargain is in direct violation of federal law and out of step with their peers; including Oregon hospitals and health systems like [Kaiser Permanente](#) and [St. Charles Bend](#) which worked hard to negotiate successful contracts and avert strikes during 10-day strike notice periods. We have filed an unfair labor practice charge against Providence with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for [illegally refusing to bargain](#), however an NLRB decision will likely come too late to bring Providence back to the table.

As Oregon's elected leaders, we call on you to urge Providence executives to return to the bargaining table and come to a fair agreement. If they refuse, we ask you to deny Providence public funds for illegal strikebreaking efforts—including hiring unlawful strikebreakers, locking out healthcare workers, and illegally refusing to bargain. Taxpayer dollars cannot support illegal activities that endanger patients while enriching executives.

Make no mistake. Oregon's healthcare providers would rather be at the bedside caring for patients than in the streets striking for them. But we will do what is necessary to reach a fair agreement that delivers on its promises to patients, providers and our communities. Together, we can hold Providence accountable and ensure every Oregonian receives the care they deserve.

Sincerely,



Anne Tan Piazza  
ONA Executive Director