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the professional health care union

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SAINT MICHAEL'S HEALTHCARE UNION REJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS IN NAVIGANT REPORT

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NEWARK – Today, JNESO Executive Director Douglas Placa responded to the recently released “Greater Newark Healthcare Services Evaluation,” commonly referred to as the “Navigant Report,” noting that it ignores critical needs of the City of Newark and the surrounding community. The union specifically expressed concern with the recommendation to eliminate St. Michael’s Medical Center as an acute care facility, and instead reduce it to an ambulatory care facility.

“The recommendation to reduce services at Saint Michael’s Medical Center is severely flawed,” said Placa. “It ignores the needs of Newark and the many people from the surrounding areas who utilize this hospital regularly. People deserve a choice when it comes to healthcare – they shouldn’t be told where they can and cannot seek care. By limiting their access, you have to question the motive behind the recommendations. As President Obama expanded health insurance accessibility and the Governor implemented Medicaid expansion thereby giving more people access to health care, what the Navigant Report proposes severely limits that access.”

Saint Michael’s Medical Center is home to 1,400 employees who pay an estimated \$4.5 million to the State income taxes and generate over \$5 million in revenue to local companies. It is also home to a state of the art Emergency Department that treats 36,000 patients annually.

“Closing this hospital will have a severe impact on the City’s economy and on the lives of those who have worked in this hospital for decades,” Placa continued. “Everyone from our members, to their patients, to Newark’s local economy will sustain a cutting blow should this hospital close. It’s unacceptable. A similar Navigant study in 2011 suggested that Hoboken University Medical Center close only to be one of the busiest hospitals in Hudson County today.”

“On behalf of the more than 500 members represented by JNESO at St. Michael’s, I urge our state and local officials to reject this misguided recommendation and afford the people of Newark the choice they deserve when it comes to seeking healthcare.”

JNESO District Council 1 is a professional healthcare union representing over 5,000 healthcare professionals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is an affiliate of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Learn more at: www.jneso.org.

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