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the professional health care union

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LEADING HEALTHCARE UNION PRAISES NEWARK CITY COUNCIL FOR SUPPORT OF SAINT MICHAEL'S MEDICAL CENTER

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NEWARK – Today, JNESO Executive Director Douglas A. Placa appeared before the Newark City Council to urge them to support a resolution which would reject the Navigant Report's controversial recommendation to close St. Michael's Medical Center, and would instead urge the State to support the sale of the hospital. This vote comes just weeks after the release of the Navigant Report, which the union has publicly rejected.

"Today's vote shows that the Newark City Council is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with labor on keeping this hospital open," said Placa. "Saint Michael's Medical Center has a measurable impact on the health and safety of the City's residents, the local economy, and on the City's employment rate. We cannot let this hospital close simply because an out-of-touch report recommends limiting access to quality health care."

Saint Michael's Medical Center is home to more than 1400 employees who pay an estimated \$4.5 million in State income taxes and generate over \$5 million in revenue to local companies. Last year, 36,000 patients visited the Emergency Department alone.

"We're talking about a hospital that has been a staple of the Central Ward and an economic engine for decades," Placa continued. "The people of Newark deserve to continue to have access to quality care, and to have the choice to seek that care at their community hospital. At the end of the day, this is about the people of Newark – many of whom are our members – and we commend the Newark City Council for recognizing that and for standing with us to save St. Michael's."

St. Michael's Medical Center is currently in the review process of being sold, a deal that is pending state approval. The union supports the sale, and commends the Council for publicly registering their support as well.

"We're not just blindly asking for this hospital to remain open," said Placa. "St. Michael's is a valuable institution and keeping it operating as a full-service community hospital is critical. That's why we're urging the State to sign off on the sale and give the residents of Newark and the employees of the hospital the assurance that their access to care will be preserved. Access to quality healthcare is really a fundamental expectation of the people in this state, and it should be no different for the people of Newark."

JNESO is a professional healthcare union representing 5,000 nurses and other healthcare workers in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. JNESO represents over 400 nurses and licensed professional technical employees at St. Michael's Medical Center .

Learn more at: www.jneso.org.

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