



**JNESO**

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO  
*the professional health care union*

TEL: (732) 745-2776  
FAX: (732) 828-6343  
WEB: WWW.JNESO.ORG  
MEMBERS: (800) 292-0542

1225 LIVINGSTON AVE., NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902

JOAN CAMPAGNA, RN, CCRN, PRESIDENT  
DOUGLAS A. PLACA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **LEADING HEALTHCARE UNION MARKS NURSES WEEK BY THANKING MEMBERS, PUSHING FOR SAFE STAFFING**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, May 8, 2014**

**Contact: Doug Placa**  
**Telephone: (732) 745-2776**  
**Email: [dplaca@jneso.org](mailto:dplaca@jneso.org)**

**North Brunswick** – JNESO District Council 1 marked the beginning of National Nurses Week by recognizing its nearly 5,000 members throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and by ramping up its visibility and public education campaign regarding safe staffing ratios. Each year, Nurses Week begins on May 6th and ends on May 12th.

“Nurses Week is an important time to recognize the critically essential work nurses do on a daily basis,” said JNESO Executive Director Douglas A. Placa. “They’re on the front lines of healthcare at a time when the industry is changing and expanding, and they’ve continued to maintain a focus on patient safety and positive outcomes. It’s no wonder nurses continue to be perceived by the public as the most ethical and honest profession in the country. That’s something to recognize, especially during nurses week.”

JNESO represents healthcare workers at 19 different locals across New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and is taking the time to thank its members and to celebrate the great work they do. At the same time, the union is ramping up its campaign for safe staffing ratios, an initiative that will ensure nurses are adequately staffed and patient safety is protected.

“When we recognize our nurses for their dedication to saving lives, we also need to address that increasing their workload to unsafe levels can compromise the safety of their patients and their ability to adequately do their jobs,” said Placa. “As nurses face staffing cuts in hospitals across the country, it becomes increasingly important that we pass a meaningful safe staffing ratio law to mandate that nurses have the resources they need to continue to be effective. It’s something we’ve been advocating for, and we’re taking this opportunity to increase our efforts.”

JNESO began a public education campaign coinciding with this year’s Nurses Week, with visibility efforts and information available for its members, for the public, and for legislators. Resources range from JNESO leadership interviews in local papers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to online resources available on [www.JNESO.org](http://www.JNESO.org), to safe staffing handouts with information about the deadly impact of an understaffed workforce.

“We’re doing everything we can to get information out to our members and into the public domain,” said Placa. “You can expect to see more from us on this important fight – not just during Nurses Week. It’s too important to the public’s safety.”

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](http://www.jneso.org).

###