



JNESO
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the professional health care union

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NURSES UNION DEMANDS SAFE STAFFING AND QUALITY PATIENT CARE AT POCONO MEDICAL CENTER

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EAST STROUDSBURG – Today, Pocono Medical Center (PMC) Registered Nurses voiced their continued support for quality patient care at Pocono Medical Center. “The recent layoff of Registered Nurses at Pocono Medical Center was difficult for all of us. The loss of one nurse is a tragedy; the hospital needs to ensure nurses are staffed adequately and have the resources needed to provide quality patient care,” said Mona Hartle, President of the PMC Local Chapter of JNESO. “Today we come together to make certain Pocono Medical Center continues to deliver quality patient care at the bedside to our community.”

“Today PMC officials will announce the merger of Pocono Medical Center with Lehigh Valley Health Network,” said Doug Placa, Executive Director for JNESO District Council 1. “We are here today to support our members during this new phase of delivering patient care as the two institutions merge their operations. The Union will continue to bring concerns to management regarding nurse-patient staffing deficiencies; we will continue to cite the number of Short Staffing forms submitted from our nurses. It is important that Safe Nurse-Patient Staffing Ratios are adhered to in all units on all shifts.” Placa also said, “Removing nurses from the bedside will have a serious impact on patient care at the hospital,” referring to the recent layoff at PMC.

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), massive reductions in nursing budgets, combined with the challenges presented by a growing nursing shortage have resulted in fewer nurses working longer hours and caring for sicker patients. This situation compromises care and contributes to the nursing shortage by creating an environment that drives nurses from the bedside. Studies have shown that in addition to being a leading cause of “nurse burnout,” high nurse-to-patient ratios have been associated with an increase in medical errors and patient stay, as well as patient infections, bedsores, pneumonia, MRSA, cardiac arrest, and accidental death. For each additional patient beyond 4 assigned to an RN, the risk of death increases by 7% for all patients.

JNESO has a long history of advocating for Safe Nurse-Patient Staffing Ratios. JNESO supports enacting safe nurse to patient staffing ratios to ensure patient safety and quality of care, to retain a qualified workforce, and to address the growing nursing and healthcare professional shortage. JNESO works to enact minimum staffing ratios to reap the benefits of an adequately staffed workforce with an increase in actively licensed RNs, a decrease in nurse vacancies, and a measurable difference in quality of patient care.

JNESO District Council 1 is a healthcare union representing more than 5,000 nurses and other healthcare workers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For more information, visit www.JNESO.org.

Learn more at: www.jneso.org.
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