



**JNESO**

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*the professional health care union*

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## **Contract Negotiations Screech to a halt at St. Mary's Unfair Labor Practice Complaint Filed by JNESO on behalf of Nurses and Techs**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**North Brunswick, N.J.** – Contract negotiations at St. Mary's General Hospital in Passaic have come to a screeching halt, and an emergency meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 1, due to an Unfair Labor Practice complaint filed by JNESO, the union that represents nurses and technicians at the hospital.

JNESO filed an Unfair Labor Practice complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, after Prime Health Care Service/St. Mary's management team presented a completely new healthcare package proposal that more than doubled the cost of benefits and reduced medical coverage.

“We have been bargaining in good faith since the beginning of July. We reached agreement on the Healthcare package and now St. Mary's arbitrarily proposed a new Healthcare package. This flies in the face of what Prime promised not only the employees, but the community-which is transparency,” said Doug Placa, Executive Director of JNESO. “To make one health care proposal on September 15<sup>th</sup>, which we agreed to and then change course on October 30<sup>th</sup> by making a proposal that more than doubles the premiums members would be paying and reduces benefits is absurd.”

The RNs and the technicians affected by this contract have called an emergency meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov.1, to consider their options and determine whether to consider a strike authorization vote in response.

“Our members have been very instrumental in supporting St. Mary's General Hospital since Prime took over,” said Judy Schuck, President of the RN bargaining team. “We have been negotiating in good faith for over two months to ratify our contract, reaching the end point. Management has now rescinded an insurance plan which we previously agreed to and replace it with much less coverage and over double the cost per employee. St. Mary's General Hospital is no longer bargaining in good faith. .

“This was totally unexpected after we had reached agreement, and the new proposal is completely unreasonable,” said Kevin Turek, President the Technical unit bargaining team. “We have been negotiating for months, this is a real slap in the face to all our nurses and tech's who work so hard every day to care for patients in this community.”

JNESO helped rally hospital workers and members of the community to save St. Mary's hospital from closure several years ago. JNESO also supported Prime Health Care Service when they agreed to keep the community hospital open as a full service acute care facility. However, since the takeover in 2014, nearly 100 nurses and more than 50 techs have been laid off.

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