



# JNESO

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

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For Immediate Release

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## JNESO Honors PA Representatives Tomlinson and Mehaffie as “Legislators of the Year”

Pocono, PA/North Brunswick, NJ (April 14, 2022) – Two members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives have been selected as the 2022 recipients of the “Public Servant of the Year Award” presented by JNESO District Council 1 IUOE-AFL-CIO, the professional healthcare union.

This award is presented to legislators who actively support nurses and labor issues that can impact the health and safety of nurses and patients. The 2022 recipients are:

- **Representative Kathleen C. Tomlinson**, of District 18, representing parts of Bucks County
- **Representative Thomas L. Mehaffie**, of District 106, serving Dauphin County

“JNESO is honored to present the award to both Representatives Tomlinson and Mehaffie, who are co-sponsors of the Patient Safety Act in the House (HB 106) which would protect both nurses and patients by setting safe nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in health care facilities across the state,” said Douglas Placa, Executive Director of JNESO, which serves some 5,000 health care professionals in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

“Our members have been fighting for Safe Staffing ratios for years and this bill marks a major step forward in our efforts to make a real difference in daily lives of our nurses who have been stretched to their limits and the patients they are dedicated to caring for,” said Elfrieda Johnson, JNESO Board President. JNESO members plan to hold a rally to increase public awareness and support for the Patient Safety Act in May.

The Patient Safety Act, [HB 106/SB240](#) (identical bills) would set appropriate staffing ratios for Pennsylvania hospitals dependent upon the acuity of the unit’s patient needs. This legislation is an important part of keeping hospital patients safe and ensuring they receive the best care possible.

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Cutline: PA Representative Thomas Mehaffie III, District 106 (center), is presented with the JNESO Public Servant of the Year Award by Annemarie Ruggiero (left), JNESO Board Member and Local President at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono (LVH-P) and Bob Williams, JNESO Local Vice President at LVH-P.



Cutline: PA Representative Kathleen C. Tomlinson, District 18 (center), is presented with the JNESO Public Servant of the Year Award by Annemarie Ruggiero (left), JNESO Board Member and Local President at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono (LVH-P) and Elfrieda Johnson (right), JNESO Board President.