

**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

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**2,250 Nurses and Healthcare Professionals at Temple University Hospital Vote to Authorize a Strike by 95% Margin**

**The Caregivers Will Hold a Rally at the ANCC National Magnet Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center TOMORROW, on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th at NOON**

**Philadelphia, PA** – On the heels of a massive informational picket that drew more than 1,000 PASNAP represented Temple University Hospital registered nurses and allied professionals to the corner of Broad and Ontario in North Philadelphia to protest unsafe staffing conditions for caregivers and patients inside the hospital, TUH administration allowed the caregivers' contracts to lapse on September 30th, refusing to adequately address the issues at the core of the unions' concerns, including safe staffing, retention of experienced caregivers, workplace violence prevention, and resources and respect for frontline staff.

**Yesterday, the TUH nurses, technical specialists, and professionals voted by an overwhelming majority to authorize their bargaining committees to call a joint strike if the issues the caregivers have raised in ongoing negotiations remain unaddressed. 95% of both unions of caregivers voted to authorize 10-day strike notices to Temple.**

"Hospital administrators are the one group of people I know who turn a deaf ear to bedside nurses," says ICU nurse Mary Adamson, RN, president of the Temple University Hospital Nurses Association. "We have very reasonable offers on the table, chief among them a proposal that would ensure safe staffing in the hospital. That's what we want. That's what our patients want. That's what a hospital that cares about patient outcomes *should* want. Yet management has refused even to respond to our good-faith proposal regarding staffing."

"Without our efforts inside the hospital for our North Philadelphia community – and especially our sacrifices over the last two and a half years – Temple wouldn't be where it is today," says Carlos Aviles, certified pharmacy technician and president of Temple Allied Professionals. "Yet we don't get respect for our professionals at the bargaining table. We don't get gratitude for our contributions. We don't get proposals that will help us keep the staff who are leaving in droves. We get TUH trying to operate for-profit in a nonprofit environment at the expense of its patients and its own caregivers."

TUH administration's refusal to invest in critical quality-of-care issues such as safe staffing has led to the hemorrhaging of seasoned staff inside the hospital.

"The problem at Temple and elsewhere isn't that there aren't enough nurses to fully staff hospitals," says TUH gastroenterology nurse Marty Harrison, RN, vice-president of the Temple University Hospital Nurses Association. "The problem is that there aren't enough jobs that nurses want to do, given the conditions at the bedside. We have to make these jobs, jobs that nurses want to do by fully staffing the hospital. Temple should want that, too – for their clinical staff and for their patient community."

“In social work, we are consistently understaffed – at one point recently we were staffed at 50%!” says TUH social worker Julia Hanes. “Social workers who have been with us for years are quitting for lower-paying but better opportunities, so . The low staffing numbers and low morale really impact our patients and our ability to provide the best patient care. It’s physically and morally exhausting.”

TUH nurses, technical specialists, and professionals have scheduled a rally at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) National Magnet Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to highlight the staffing crisis inside their hospital and its corrosive effect on patients and caregivers alike.

### **RALLY AT THE ANCC NATIONAL MAGNET CONFERENCE**

**Pennsylvania Convention Center**

**Friday, October 14, 2022**

TUH achieved ANCC Magnet designation in January 2019. The status is meant to indicate nursing excellence and is considered a benchmark of patient care. At the time, TUH’s Chief Nurse Executive said, “Magnet at Temple signifies a relentless commitment to our patients, colleagues, and each other.” Yet in the three years since TUH earned Magnet status – including the year before the pandemic hit – the hospital’s workforce has steadily declined, nurse to patient ratios increased, seasoned caregivers are leaving in droves due to unsafe conditions at the bedside, and staff vacancy rates are dangerously high, yet at the bargaining table, Temple administration has refused to even consider implementing evidence-based, safe nurse staffing standards at TUH and has shown little respect for – much less a “relentless commitment to” – the very caregivers who earned the facility its Magnet designation.

#### **WHEN:**

**Friday, October 14, 2022**

**NOON**

#### **WHERE:**

**Pennsylvania Convention Center**

**Specific location to be determined TODAY; more information to come**

#### **WHAT:**

**A rally with speeches from TUH nurses and allied professionals**

*The Temple University Hospital Nurses Association and Temple Allied Professionals are affiliates of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents more than 9,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals across Pennsylvania.*