



City of Portland

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Jennifer Burrows, Chief Executive, Providence Oregon
Erik Wexler, President and CEO, Providence

February 17, 2025

Dear Mr. Wexler and Ms. Burrows,

Portland's healthcare workers are part of the backbone of our community, providing essential, lifesaving care every day. Yet, for far too long, they have been expected to perform under conditions that are not sustainable. As members of the Portland City Council, we stand with the thousands of healthcare professionals currently on strike, fighting for the fundamental rights and protection they deserve.

The stories we have heard from nurses and community members paint a clear picture: understaffing, unsafe conditions, and inadequate compensation are pushing these dedicated professionals to the brink. This is not just about wages—it is about ensuring that those who care for us have the resources and support necessary to do their jobs without putting themselves or their patients at risk. The well-being of our entire community is at stake. This is both a public health and public safety concern.

Now, in the sixth week of this historic strike, nurses have overwhelmingly rejected a contract that fails to address their most urgent concerns. This vote is a resounding call for Providence leadership to do better. The status quo is not working. We urge you to return to the bargaining table and engage in good-faith negotiations that lead to real, lasting solutions. Portland's nurses have given everything to their patients. Providence, you have the chance to step up and show that you value your workers in return.

Because we, too, are an employer in our community, we know that a respectful resolution to this matter is possible. We implore you to resolve this quickly in order to guarantee safe working conditions and fair wages to these valuable professionals. The health of our city depends on it.

Sincerely,

Councilor Candace Avalos, District 1
Councilor Jamie Dunphy, District 1
Councilor Loretta Smith, District 1
Councilor Dan Ryan, District 2
Council President, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, District 2
Councilor Sameer Kanal, District 2
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