

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters

American Association of University Professors ~ American Federation of Teachers

Striking Nurses of Englewood Hospital: 'Their Fight is our Fight'

WHEREAS, the 660 registered nurses of Englewood Hospital in Englewood, New Jersey, have been on strike since June 29, 2006, without a single nurse crossing the picket line; and

WHEREAS, the striking nurses are members of the American Federation of Teachers Healthcare division; and

WHEREAS, the hospital has clearly shown its intention to try to break the union, first by locking the nurses out of the hospital for three days, then by withdrawing an agreement to submit to binding arbitration, and finally by spending more than \$2 million to date on strike-breaking replacement nurses; and

WHEREAS, the nurses' slogan—"Our Fight Is Your Fight"—is an accurate and apt description of the magnitude of their battle as they engage on issues that affect the entire labor movement; and

WHEREAS, the striking nurses are fighting to retain their pension benefits—a critical battle that resonates broadly throughout the United States as workers increasingly face threats to their retirement security; and

WHEREAS, nurses also are fighting for contract language that would put an end to the dangerous and common practice of understaffing—a practice that increases medical errors and puts patients at significant risk:

RESOLVED, that the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT commend the strength, determination and courage of the striking nurses; and

RESOLVED, that the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT stand behind and support our fellow AFT members at Englewood Hospital, recognizing that their fight for decent pensions and quality healthcare is a fight that must be won and is, indeed, our fight as well.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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August 3, 2006

Stephanie Orrico
HPAE
110 Kinderkamack Rd
Emerson, NJ 07630

Dear President Orrico,

On behalf of our 5,500 faculty, professional staff members, and part-time lecturers, we would like to congratulate you on your successful campaign to protect the rights of nurses at Englewood Hospital. Please find enclosed the resolution supported by both the Rutgers AAUP-AFT chapter and the Rutgers PTLFC-AAUP-AFT chapter. Please feel free to call on us for additional support.

In solidarity,

Lisa C. Klein
President

Amy Bahruth
President, PTLFC