

SUPPORTING BARGAINING BETWEEN SEIU HEALTHCARE WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AUTHORITY (UWHCA) REGISTERED NURSES
AND UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

The nurses at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority (UWHCA) for decades have provided outstanding direct patient care. Their culture is rooted in a long-standing tradition of mutual respect among the hospital system's administration, board of directors, and organized registered nurses making it for years the best place to work and to receive care. In recent years, there has been a shift from these core values of fully supporting top quality nursing, and towards a value of prioritizing maximum corporate profits.

These changes have caused many good nurses to leave the organization, exacerbating the current staffing crisis at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics (UWHC). Operational efficiency at UWHC can be improved without jeopardizing patients or staff, but this requires a collaborative ecosystem where professional nurses, the administration and the board work together to achieve these shared goals.

The nurses have formed a union, and have chosen SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin to be their representative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County board fully supports the nurses' unionization efforts and calls on the UWHCA board to voluntarily recognize their union. This will facilitate the decades-long tradition of productive and positive collaboration with organized labor that made UWHC the kind of remarkable hospital system the people of Wisconsin deserve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board calls on UWHC to meet and confer with the union regarding staffing and scheduling concerns, with the highest priority being placed on setting safe and appropriate nurse/patient ratios for every nursing unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board calls on UWHC to return to a just-cause standard and Weingarten rights for all. These long-standing, fundamental workplace rights at UWHC were eliminated by the current hospital leadership. These rights are essential to re-establish an environment in which nurses are able to function as fearless patient advocates and trusted leaders of the health care delivery team.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the UWHCA board, Chief Executive Officer Alan Kaplan, MD of UWHC, SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin, and the Dane County legislative delegation.