

# ***IN SOLIDARITY WITH NURSES***

**We are in solidarity** with nurses at Staten Island University Hospital who are fighting for patient safety, a fair contract, dignity and respect. Northwell Health must commit to safe, quality care for every community it serves. At a time when hospital CEO pay is out of control, with seven-figure salaries and Wall Street-type bonuses, there is no excuse not to pay nurses and healthcare professionals what they deserve and protect all existing benefits. By agreeing to a strong contract with safe staffing and fair wages and benefits – we can further address the health and safety needs of Staten Island patients.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the severity of patient illness has increased, but healthcare staffing has not. Staten Island is facing a healthcare staffing crisis, and Staten Island University Hospital/ Northwell must do everything it can to recruit and retain enough qualified nurses to safely care for patients in the communities they live so they can afford to stay there. That means providing fair competitive wages and benefits to attract and reward our dedicated healthcare heroes.

We call on the hospital administration to agree to strong and enforceable safe staffing standards that ensure quality care in our communities. Providing safe working conditions where healthcare professionals can thrive and deliver quality care is essential to retaining enough nurses for safe staffing. Northwell is investing in expanding and upgrading the space in its hospitals, but it also needs to invest in expanding its workforce to meet our communities' healthcare needs.

Nurses protected New York's most vulnerable people during the years of the COVID-19 pandemic – now is the time to respect and support their service. NYSNA nurses took the extraordinary step of authorizing a strike if a fair contract settlement cannot be reached. We understand that this would be a last resort and that nurses would rather stay on the job caring for their patients.

We urge you to agree with the nurses at Staten Island University Hospital and their just demands to negotiate a fair contract. We see fulfilling these demands as a pathway to protecting the health and safety of our communities. If no settlement is reached – we stand in full solidarity with striking nurses and will see you on the picket line.

Sincerely,

**Staten Island Elected Officials:**

State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Assembly Member Charles Fall

Council Member Kamillah Hanks

**Brooklyn Elected Officials:**

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

**New York State Senators:**

Iwen Chu

Zellnor Myrie

**New York State Assembly Members:**

Robert Carroll

William Colton

Brian Cunningham

Phara Souffrant Forrest

Emily Gallagher

**New York City Council Members:**

Alexa Avilés

Chris Banks

Justin Brannan

Jennifer Guttierrez

Shahana Hanif

Crystal Hudson

Farah Louis

Mercedes Narcisse

Sandy Nurse

Chi Ossé

Lincoln Restler

Lynn Schulman

Susan Zhuang