WEEKLONG STATEWIDE STRIKE BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Yesterday we held our final contract bargaining session with Kaiser before the beginning of our five-day statewide strike. Kaiser management had announced to bargaining unit members on Monday that “We are prepared to reach a fair agreement, and we hope the union comes prepared to do the same,” so we had some hope this would be a productive session. Unfortunately, for the fifth time in recent months, Kaiser’s negotiators brought absolutely nothing to the table. This clearly shows they never had any intention of living up to the propaganda put out by KP executives.

Our bargaining committee came prepared to bargain in advance of the strike, and presented revised economic proposals in good faith. Our team proposed 9%, 3%, and 3% raises over three years, along with slightly lower lump sum bonuses and one fewer longevity raise, than in previous proposals. We also proposed new language that would legally protect one- to two-week return access for many providers who see individual patients. Unfortunately, Kaiser failed to engage in a meaningful back-and-forth on these new proposals, and made no proposals in response.

This kind of bad faith bargaining by Kaiser makes it clear that we all must join our coworkers on the picket line for all five days of next week’s strike.

Kaiser management is testing us: Will we stand up for ourselves and our patients, fight for what we deserve, and put maximum pressure on Kaiser to do what is right? The more of us who answer YES, the more effective our strike will be. From Otay to Bakersfield and beyond, we all must unite to make this action a success.

View the picket schedule at NUHW.org and contact a rep or steward to sign up and join our bargaining committee on the picket lines!

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