

## **SB221 hearing scheduled**

On March 17, SB221 will be heard in the CA Senate Health Committee, the first of many steps before it can be enacted into law. This bill was introduced by State Senator Scott Weiner in January, and would close a loophole that allows health plans, such as Kaiser, to make patients wait weeks or even months for follow-up appointments. Instead, SB 221 would provide patients with return mental health and substance use disorder treatment appointments within 10 business days, just like for initial appointments, unless their clinician believes a longer gap is appropriate.

We are proud to sponsor this legislation, and we expect the insurance industry will fight hard to defeat it. The best way to ensure this bill passes is by mental health patients and providers speaking with legislators during each step of the process about why stricter standards for return access are important. If you want to join our statewide team of clinicians spreading the message to legislators at virtual hearings and lobby visits over the next few months, then respond to this email and someone from our political team will be in touch with more details.

## **"Know your contract, Know your rights" meeting tonight**

We will be hosting our second of two "Know your contract, Know your rights" sessions over zoom tonight, Monday, March 1st from 7-8:30pm, open to all KP-IBHS members. In this session, we will review the contract as well as some basics of what it means to be in a union, including rights, protections, and resources. This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions about what is in the current contract so that you can think about what you'd like to change.

## **Bargaining Survey Launched Last Week**

Our bargaining survey was sent out last Wednesday, with a reminder email sent on Friday. The link to the survey was sent to your personal email through the survey software, not from Mobilize. Check your email (it may have gone to a spam or junk folder) and fill yours out now, if you haven't yet done so. If you are having technical difficulties completing the survey, let me know and someone will be in touch to assist you. Survey results help inform our campaign priorities so it is important for every voice to be heard!

## **Deadline to join the Bargaining Committee is March 15**

This is one last reminder that if you would like to join the bargaining committee, and be a part of the team that actually creates proposals, presents them in meetings with Kaiser, and leads our fight for contract improvements, now is the time to self-nominate and get elected. Check out the February 17 email for a fuller description of the bargaining committee responsibilities, and reach out now to your NUHW staff organizer (see staff assignments and contact information at the end of this message) if you are interested or want to learn more.

In unity,

Greg Tegenkamp  
Kaiser Division Director  
National Union of Healthcare Workers

## **NUHW Staff Assignments:**

- Carolyn Bowden: (510) 852-2136, [cbowden@nuhw.org](mailto:cbowden@nuhw.org) - SF, East Bay, North Bay, Napa Solano, Northern Diablo (Antioch, Martinez)
- Tara Draper: (209) 277-0509, [tdraper@nuhw.org](mailto:tdraper@nuhw.org) - Roseville, Sacramento, South Sac, Central Valley, Fresno
- Hayley Goldstein: (415) 290-5391, [hgoldstein@nuhw.org](mailto:hgoldstein@nuhw.org) - South SF, Redwood City, Santa Clara, San Jose, Santa Cruz, GSAA (Fremont/Union City/San Leandro), Southern Diablo (Walnut Creek, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon)
- Toran Ailisheva: (415) 845-2144, [balisheva@nuhw.org](mailto:balisheva@nuhw.org) - San Leandro and Livermore C2Cs, Southern Diablo (Walnut Creek, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon)