



MI NURSES
Association



Wisconsin Federation
of Nurses & Health
Professionals AFT, AFL-CIO

A Union of Professionals



The Nurses' Union

January 8, 2021

Dear Teamster Members at Ascension Genesys Hospital:

A coalition of unions representing nurses, techs, food service and maintenance employees at Ascension Hospitals in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin have been raising concerns to Ascension administration for months. We have raised issues regarding the implementation of policies that are risking the health of patients and staff, the disrespect of health care workers, the disregard of our union contracts, and the condescending attitude and anti-union sentiment that Ascension's administration has displayed toward workers and our union steward representatives. Now, we are raising our voices and joining together to be heard in solidarity.

The Ascension Health Corporation has failed to live up to its Catholic values during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, Ascension's operating revenue was \$25.3 billion, with profits of \$1.2 billion. According to reports, Ascension's CEO is paid over \$13 million annually. Ascension even runs its own healthcare venture capital firm, Ascension Ventures, with more than \$800 million under management; and joined with private equity firm Towerbrook Capital Partners last year to pay \$1 billion to acquire a home-health services company.

Yet, Ascension refuses to ensure that there is enough staff to safely care for patients. This is especially outrageous when taking into account that Ascension has received \$418 million in COVID-19 stimulus funds from the United States government so far.

We recognize Ascension has not honored its covenant through its blatant disrespect and disregard of your voice through your contract, evident by the growing lists of grievances and arbitrations at all of our workplaces. This bears witness that Ascension has violated its own Mission Statement and the Social Justice Mission of the Catholic Church through their lack of biblical principles and leadership. Therefore, regardless of religious or political affiliation, the Ascension Coalition of Unions wants to hear you loud and clear and asks that you express your thoughts through this member survey <https://form.jotform.com/203525356531047>.

As a result of what is outlined within this letter, we can expect Ascension to target the Ascension Coalition of Unions by attempting to pit workers against each other, denigrate our unions, control workers in their command and control authoritarian style, and insulting our unions. Nevertheless, as the labor movement in America has shown for over a hundred years, workers who stand together to demand respect and their rights are always stronger. When we as hospital workers stand up to protect our communities, we will have our communities' support.

Please take the following survey (<https://form.jotform.com/203525356531047>) no later than **Friday, January 22, 2021**, so we can determine the full extent of how Ascension is treating us and our patients. We will continue to lift each other up, and to protect ourselves and our communities during this crisis.

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Respectfully,

Ascension Coalition of Unions



Nina Bugbee, RN
President, Teamsters Union Local 332
Director, IBT Health Care Division



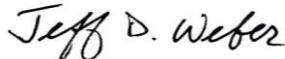
Kelly Rivera-Craine, RN
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Jeff Morawski, RN
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Josephine Walker, RN
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Jeff Weber, RN
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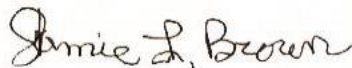
Jamie Lucas
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