



October 3, 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of the over 300,000 registered nurses affiliated with RNs Working Together, AFL-CIO, I want to extend our support to you in your fight with the management of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare Hospitals (ARH).

All of us understand that nurses go to work each day with a desire to deliver quality care. Unfortunately, in addition to the challenges that are inherent in caring for the sick, you have also been faced with understaffing and excessively long hours due to forced overtime. Needless to say, patients and their families are the ones who ultimately pay for these conditions.

It is wrong that the corporate executives of ARH - who have provoked two strikes in less than one year - have decided that it is better to continually fight with those that provide direct patient care and service rather than working with you and your co-workers to improve care. These actions may serve the narrow personal interests of a few corporate executives, but they are contrary to the interests of your patients and communities.

Please know that we admire your courage and willingness to take a stand for the principle that every patient deserves a nurse that has the time and resources to deliver proper care. Indeed, when other nurses face the same struggles that you are facing today, they will draw inspiration from your dedication to your patients and your communities.

Your fight is the fight over 300,00 registered nurses from the 11 different AFL-CIO unions that make up RNs Working Together. And we stand with you.