

Minnesota House of Representatives

July 18, 2025

Dr. David Herman,

The signed members unequivocally condemn Essentia Health's approach to negotiations with its clinic nurses and Advanced Practice Providers (APPs). In a climate marked by widespread assaults on organized labor, our state and our caucus remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding workers' fundamental rights to organize and collectively bargain.

We are deeply concerned by Essentia Health's anti-union tactics, characterized by protracted negotiations with clinic nurses and an outright refusal to engage in discussions with APPs, despite a direct mandate from the regional National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Essentia's decision to employ replacement workers, rather than pursuing equitable contracts with its long-standing and dedicated healthcare professionals, represents a grave threat to the entirety of its workforce.

We must remember the tenet of solidarity: an attack against one is an attack against all. Essentia Health's actions constitute a direct assault on organized labor and the collective bargaining rights of all workers.

We stand with nurses and APPs in this negotiation.

With the passage of the budget reconciliation bill on July 4th, the federal government walked away from its responsibility to support healthcare facilities in every state, including Minnesota. We recognize the significant uncertainty regarding future federal funding and as state legislators, we will prioritize state-investments to ensure we are supporting Minnesota patients, communities, and the workers who care for them, including their right to organize and negotiate a fair contract.

We strongly urge Essentia Health to prioritize Minnesota patients and the Duluth community by putting an end to the ongoing strike by respecting its workers and their rights. We urge you to negotiate in good faith to ensure these healthcare providers can return to caring for their patients and our communities.

In solidarity with our workers,

PS-a/h

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Rep. Liish Kozlowski - 08B

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Rep. Mary Frances Clardy - 53A

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Rep. María Isa Pérez-Vega - 65B

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Rep. Liz Lee - 67A