



Health Professionals and Allied Employees

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September 29, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Jeffrey A. Brown, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

RE: Layoff Heights University Hospital (formerly Christ Hospital)

Dear Acting Commissioner Brown,

Thank you for forwarding the letter sent by your department to Hudson Regional administrators. We appreciate the efforts of NJ Department of Health to advise Hudson Regional Health of the standards they must adhere to as the license holder.

I am writing to you regarding the threats of employee layoffs, reduction of services and possible closure of Heights University Hospital (HUH) in Jersey City made by the administrators at Hudson Regional Health (HRH). HPAE represents the 205 Registered Nurses at the hospital who on Friday, September 26th, received layoff notices. Our members are extremely distraught as are community members that receive medical and behavioral health services at the hospital.

Earlier this year, the new operators at HRH promised the bankruptcy court, the community, politicians, and NJ Department of Health that they would maintain operation of all three CarePoint hospitals. To give up after six months of operation is disingenuous and leaves a trail of broken promises. It will also hurt the healthcare workers they employ and the community members they serve.

Because we have received no information regarding a plan, HPAE has submitted an Information Request and has sent a Demand to Bargain letter to the employer over the layoffs. As the bargaining unit representative, we need to have an understanding of what steps have been taken to bring financial stability to all HRH hospitals, so we can best represent our members.

HPAE will pursue all legal avenues to protect the Registered Nurses we represent at HUH and the services provided to the community. This includes filing grievances for violations to the current contract with the hospital and filing unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

HRH assured the Courts and NJ DOH that they did have the financial resources to maintain and revitalize the CarePoint hospitals only months ago. It is essential that the Department of Health continue to hold these operators accountable to the commitments they

made to the State, the community and their workers. Attached is a letter presented as evidence during the bankruptcy proceedings. It demonstrates the ability to close and fund the purchase-transaction-plan. We urge the Department to enforce the hospital transparency standards outlined in NJAC § 8:96-1.1 *et seq.*, and NJAC § 8:96-7.1 *et seq.* concerning the sale of hospital land.

HPAE has a long track record of advocating to preserve and protect healthcare services. We remain committed to ensuring there is greater transparency and accountability in HRH hospitals. Hudson County patients must continue to have access to the care they deserve, and our members must be protected from the unlawful actions of these hospital owners who have yet to prove their ability to be fiscally responsible operators.

We stand with you in holding HRH accountable so that as the license holder they maintain the healthcare services they are required to provide in a fiscally responsible manner.

If there is any way we can be of assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at dwhite@hpae.org or (609) 828-4105.

Kind regards,

Debbie White, RN, President