MEDIA ADVISORY FOR: December 8th, 2023 Media Contact: Joyce Gibson (jgibson@seiu1199.org)

SEIU 1199 Cabell Huntington Hospital Nurses are calling a "CODE: BLUE" Press Conference

QUALITY NURSES CONCERNED ABOUT QUALITY CARE AT CABELL HUNTINGTON HOSITAL TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS UNSAFE STAFFING LEVELS AND THE CONCERN OF RETENTION

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Huntington, WV – Nurses and Nurse Practitioners at Cabell Huntington Hospital (CHH) are calling a "CODE: BLUE" press conference to address concerns about the future of quality care for the greater Cabell County area. Faced with millions in proposed healthcare concessions and being understaffed by hospital management, employees are asking for the community's support for dignity, respect, and fairness for all employees at Cabell Huntington Hospital.

Tomorrow, December 8th, at 7pm Registered Nurses and union members at Cabell Huntington Hospital (1340 Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, WV 25701) will be holding a press conference in front of the hospital bring awareness to the community on major issues at the hospital that are impacting their ability to serve our community and provide the best care possible. At this time, there are over 200 Registered Nurse vacancies at CHH. In turn, the quality of care is suffering.

RNs are experiencing an astronomical turnover rate, and they say the hospital is failing to focus on retaining quality experienced nurses. CHH has imposed millions of dollars on health care premium increases on medical and dental insurance for RNs. The hospital wants to eliminate the Wellness Program for all employees and continues to reject safe staffing standards despite nurses doing everything in their power to let the hospital know that staffing numbers are a major issue.

"By investing more in out-of-state travel nurses, the hospital just isn't providing the incentive for nurses to retain their employment and dedicate their career to the community like they should," said Joyce Gibson, Secretary-Treasurer for SEIU 1199.

SEIU 1199 members are gathering tomorrow at 7pm in front of Cabell Huntington Hospital and calling on hospital leadership to respect safe staffing standards and make the hospital a great place not only for RNs to work, but for community members to get the care they rightfully deserve.