

Donna Handley, President, Windham Hospital

Windham Hospital has been actively engaged in negotiations for renewal contracts with two AFT bargaining units representing our nurses, and our technical and support staff, since December 2021. We have offered a contract that is fair, equitable and market-competitive.

We are deeply disappointed that the AFT union is yet again threatening to walk out on Windham Hospital's patients. The AFT has notified the hospital Local 5099, representing our technical and support staff, will engage in a two-day strike on October 24 and October 25.

A strike is not in anyone's best interests, and will not help to resolve our negotiations. Windham Hospital has respectfully responded to every one of the issues the unions identified as most important to them. The hospital's last and most comprehensive offer to Local 5099 includes:

- Wage increases and market-based increases to boost recruitment and retention.
- Significant health insurance premium contribution relief amounting to an additional 2% of wages.
- Elimination of mandatory overtime language.
- Other contract enhancements including the expansion of preceptor pay and the expansion of reimbursement for property damage.

The hospital compromised to find common ground throughout the negotiations, and made repeated moves to address the most important issues identified by the union, culminating in the comprehensive offer described above.

In addition, we have advised the union that we remain willing to consider proposals that are within the economic parameters of our offer. They have not presented such a proposal.

In the meantime, we must again take all appropriate steps to ensure that our patients will continue to have access to the care they need.

For more information, please visit www.windhamhospital.org/community