

Dear CRONA nurses,

In response to the CRONA nurses' overwhelming rejection of the hospitals' final proposal, the hospitals stated on their website that "it is unfortunate, as we firmly believe that these offers reflect the high regard we have for our nursing staff and our commitment to nursing excellence".

What is "unfortunate" is that the hospitals continue to refuse to listen to what their nurses are saying. Instead, they have adopted a paternalistic and hard-nosed attitude. What they are saying is "We know what's best for our nurses and that's all they'll get". That attitude will not resolve our current differences.

The hospitals' response contains two misleading statements. First, they talk about two months "of negotiations". In fact, there has not been one minute of REAL negotiations. From the outset, the hospitals gave us their proposals and said "this is all you're getting," while rejecting virtually every proposal we made.

Second, the hospitals state that you are working "without contracts". That is simply false as the hospital and its lawyer knows. Because the parties have not reached impasse, the terms and conditions of the prior collective bargaining agreement REMAIN IN EFFECT.

In the past week, the hospitals tried to sweet-talk nurses into believing that their proposal had your best interests in mind. Now that you rejected that fable, they are talking tough to nurses to frighten you. In the end, they need to learn that what they must do is talk to CRONA AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.

Sincerely,

CRONA Negotiating Team, Negotiation Committee and Executive Board