



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NURSES PICKET AGAINST STATE BUDGET DECISIONS

CHICAGO READ NURSES UNITE AGAINST MANAGEMENT AND STATE BUDGET

ILLINOIS- The Illinois state budget, supported by management of Chicago Read Mental Health Center, has pushed staff nurses to the brink. To defend themselves and protect their patients, nurses will picket the facility October 28 on Oak Park Ave from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

“We are struggling to provide patient care under the current management’s decision to cut back on nurse staffing levels. Staffing is not based on how sick the patients are, or how many nurses are needed to provide safe care,” said Mildred Taylor, local unit leader of the Illinois Nurses Association (INA) collective bargaining unit at Chicago Read.

Nurses are citing physical violence at the hands of patients as well as increased stress from working in the current environment as reason for the picket.

“Our nurses need to stand together to support each other and protect each other. Our contract protects us, and with the support of our union, we will demand that nursing be respected by state and management officials,” Taylor added.

Nurses will be available to speak to the media about the severity of the problem, and the risk patients at Chicago Read can face during these cutbacks. INA leadership will also be available for interview.

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The Illinois Nurses Association (INA), a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, and is the largest professional nursing organization in Illinois. INA is dedicated to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the legislature and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.