

## Unions in NH's private hospitals strengthen caregivers and care

AS LABOR DAY arrives, we reflect on the achievements of the labor movement and the rights that workers fought so hard to secure.

This year, right here in New Hampshire, we stand on the verge of making history. For the first time, the dedicated nurses at Concord Hospital-Laconia have filed with the National Labor Relations Board to organize, setting the stage for a union election. If they succeed, they will pioneer a path toward stronger worker protections in private health care



**Another View**  
Rich Gulla

facilities across New Hampshire.

A private hospital unionizing here could make national news and connect Granite Staters to a growing movement across the country: union popularity is soaring!

At a time when health care workers face immense pressure — from pandemics to staffing shortages — the ability to organize gives them the power to demand the support they need.

Simply put, nurses form the backbone of our health care system. They work incredibly long hours, caring for us throughout our lives and in our most vulnerable moments. In New Hampshire, many do this without the workplace protections and collective bargaining power that ensure their voices get heard.

This organizing effort goes beyond wages, hours, or retirement benefits — it gives nurses a seat at the table to fight for better staffing ratios, safer working conditions, and ultimately stronger patient care. As nurses improve their own lives, they improve all of ours.

When these nurses succeed, they will improve more than just their own workplace — they will set a precedent for other private hospitals in the state to follow.

We call on everyone to stand with them, and we deeply appreciate our elected officials who have

backed us through the years with big bipartisan wins.

The labor movement thrives as a vast community, and we look forward to your support in making our inclusive big tent even stronger.

This Labor Day, let's not only honor the victories of the past but also embrace the milestones ahead. Let's raise our voices for the nurses making history — and for a future where every worker has a voice.

◆ Rich Gulla is president of the State Employees' Association/SEIU Local 1984. He lives in Hillsborn.

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