Our Nurses Deserve a Voice:
Patient Safety Depends on It

To the Editor,

This past spring, a highly respected nurse at Concord Hospital Laconia was abruptly escorted from her workplace. She is among the finest bedside nurses and educators I have ever known Before her termination; she had become a courageous voice advocating for union representation.

Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system. They spend more time at the bedside than any other healthcare profession, building relationships with patients and families while witnessing firsthand the realities of hospital care. They see the daily staffing shortages, the gaps in safety, and the immense pressures placed on healthcare teams to meet quality standards that our government agencies and patient safety organizations. Expect for every patient. Their voices are essential because they understand, through direct experience what patients need and what stands in the way of providing the safest possible care.

A hospital cannot truly prioritize patient safety if the very professionals best positioned to recognize risks feel silenced or feel intimidated for speaking out.

The nurse has since filed a whistleblower lawsuit, seeking justice not only for herself but also for the integrity of nursing in our state. I believe this case deserves attention, transparency and accountability.

Our community depends on Concord Hospital Laconia for emergencies, critical care and acute medical needs. We place our trust in this institution during some of the most vulnerable moments of our lives. But that trust begins long before a treatment plan is developed or a procedure is performed. It begins with how a hospital treats the people who care for us.

Nurses build that trust the moment we arrive on a stretcher, in a wheel chair, or in a hospital bed. They are there when we are frightened, in pain, and uncertain about what comes next. We depend on their knowledge, their judgement, their compassion and their willingness to advocate for us when we cannot advocate for ourselves.

Supporting nurses must mean more than public statements and promises. It must be demonstrated through meaningful action. Holding hospital leadership accountable for its decisions and their impact on staff morale, retention, recruitment, and patient safety are not simply employee relations issues. They are questions of patient safety, professional integrity, and public trust.

Our community deserves better. Our nurses deserve better. And patients, deserve nothing less.

Signed in Solidarity with the Nurses,



Richard Gulla
President SEA/SEIU Local 1984