

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

6/16/2016

RESOLUTION 2016.7

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Support of the Pacific Northwest Hospital Medicine Association

WHEREAS, the Pacific Northwest Hospital Medicine Association (PNWHMA) has bargained with PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Centers in Springfield and Eugene for nearly two years; and

WHEREAS, negotiations have stalled due to PeaceHealth's unwillingness to allow the hospitalists to practice medicine in the safest manner possible; with reasonable patient loads, and without interference from administrators who do not practice medicine; and

WHEREAS, administrators want the power to stand between physicians and their patients, dictating how many patients each physician must see per day—regardless of the complexity or circumstances of each patient's case; and

WHEREAS, as a non-profit hospital, Sacred Heart gets substantial tax breaks from Eugene and Springfield, Lane County, the state of Oregon, and the federal government, but yet according to a study published in Health Affairs, in 2013 Sacred Heart was among the top 10 most profitable hospitals in the nation, and was the only non-profit hospital on that list. It has continued to have substantial profits each year since then; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart has been hiring temporary physicians at substantial cost to replace the many hospitalists who have left for more reasonable working conditions, especially more control over the time necessary to give excellent care to their patients.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

Section 1. We support the physicians in PNWHMA who are struggling to get a contract that allows more reasonable patient loads, so that they physicians have substantially more control to use their well-trained medical judgement in deciding how much time is needed to properly care for their patients.

Section 2. We urge Sacred Heart to bargain in good faith with our local doctors, so that patient care is not disrupted.

Section 3. We urge local Democrats to join with the physicians of PNWHMA in their informational picket at noon on Thursday, June 23 at Sacred Heart RiverBend if the contract is not settled by then.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, June 16, 2016**

Signed:

X _____.

Chris Wig

Chair

X _____.

Celine Swenson-Harris

Secretary