

More nurses are non-union

Perhaps the California Nurses Association (CNA) would serve its limited membership better if they didn't mislead it and the public with misstatements.

In particular the "could deprive hundreds of thousands of registered nurses of their workplace protections and democratic rights."

The NLRB decision does not remove these rights, since most worker rights these days, especially in California, are enshrined in state and federal laws. The only thing the NLRB decision did was clarified that a permanent charge nurse was a supervisor (which they are in the current hospital work environment) and that the rotating charge nurse was not a supervisor.

The CNA should be applauding the NLRB for this clarification, since the No. 1 complaint offered by nurses about what drives them away from the bedside is poor management. This ruling makes clear the distinction thus allowing the charge nurse to become an integral and recognized member of the nursing management team.

DeMoro's statement "it forces RNs to choose between protecting their patients and keeping their job," illustrates how little she comprehends the RN's role. We are the patient advocates; it is every RN's job to advocate for his/her patients, no matter their position (non-management/management; or union/non-union). Thus, any RN incapable of advocating for their patient should rethink why they chose nursing as a profession.

Let's not forget that in California, more than 250,000 active RNs have chosen to speak for themselves and their patients without union representation and that number dwarfs the CNA membership 2 to 1. Perhaps it is time that the media present those views, since by sheer number alone they are more representative of California nurses than the CNA.

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Nurses protest union exclusion

CITY NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Unionized nurses marched through downtown Los Angeles on Thursday in response to a National Labor Relations Board ruling that they say could bar thousands of nurses nationwide from belonging to a union.

In a 3-2 ruling, the NLRB ruled Tuesday that “charge nurses” who assign patient-care duties to other nurses should be considered “supervisors,” thus barring them from joining unions.

The California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee blasted the decision, saying it “could deprive hundreds of thousands of registered nurses of their workplace protections and democratic rights.”

In response, hundreds of nurses — many wearing red shirts and some carrying signs reading, “Our Union is Our Voice” — marched through downtown Los Angeles, in conjunction with similar protests in Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville and Bangor, Maine. Union officials said they also plan to work with other labor groups to develop legislation that would overturn the decision.

The NLRB decision “provides employers a road map to exclude hundreds of thousands of RNs from their rights,” said Rose Ann DeMoro, executive director of the union. “It forces RNs to choose between protecting their patients and keeping their job.”



UNION PROTEST: Nurses protest a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board that would prevent nurse supervisors from belonging to a union Thursday in downtown Los Angeles. In a 3-2 vote, the NLRB ruled Tuesday that nurses who oversee other nurses should be considered as “supervisors,” and therefore are barred from joining a union.

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