Key issues and why BFMC nurses are prepared to strike

- Baystate refuses to bargain over RN workload and staffing, including our call for an increase in RN staffing to ensure safe patient assignments and an end to unwanted overtime, increased weekend work and unscheduled shifts.

- When nurses have too many patients to care for at one time, they cannot be there when patients need them. When nurses are forced to work extra hours or entire shifts, simply because Baystate refuses to hire enough staff, nurses are exhausted and more prone to make errors. Nurses can’t tell their families when they’ll be home, or when they’ll have a day off.

- On top of that, Baystate is demanding to cut holidays, sick days and vacation time.

- Nurses are seeking to negotiate decent and affordable health insurance benefits, after Baystate eliminated two health insurance plans in the past year and a half, leaving substandard plans in place. Baystate also refuses to bargain over this issue.

If Baystate does not agree to a fair contract, nurses will strike for 24 hours starting at 6 a.m. on June 26 and be prepared to re-enter the hospital at 6 a.m. on June 27.

Baystate has threatened to lock out nurses from 7 p.m. Sunday to 7 p.m. Wednesday. This reckless decision by Springfield executives to prohibit nurses from caring for their patients was made for financial reasons. Baystate would rather pay replacement nurses from outside the community than properly value and respect BFMC nurses. Our nurses know our patients, our hospital and our community. We are irreplaceable. Stand with us starting at 7 p.m. Sunday night outside the hospital!