



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: Monday, March 18th, 2013

Eliza Bates, NYSNA
Bernadette Ellorin, NYSNA
Robert Hadley, 1199SEIU
Dr. Toomas Sorra, Concerned Physicians

eliza.bates@nysna.org, (917) 565-2976
bernadette.ellorin@nysna.org, (347) 947-0671
robert.hadley@1199.org, (646) 627-0382
toomasmd@aol.com, (917) 435-2672

Nurses, Doctors, Caregivers, Patients to Speak Out Before SUNY Vote On LICH

New vote scheduled in Purchase, NY after previous vote to close hospital ruled unlawful

Who: LICH nurses, doctors, caregivers, patients, and community supporters including members of the Cobble Hill Association, Friends of Sunset Park, the Carroll Garden Neighborhood Association, National Action Network, and New York Communities for Change.

What: Patients and community members will join caregivers to speak out about the vital role of LICH in the health and wellbeing of Brooklyn. Since SUNY is denying patients time on the agenda to make their voices heard before the vote, we're holding our own speakout outside.

Where: SUNY Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York

When: Tuesday, March 19th at 12 p.m.

Background: Last Thursday, in a huge victory for Brooklyn patients, New York Supreme Court Justice Johnny L. Baynes issued a ruling vacating SUNY's vote to close Long Island College Hospital (LICH), finding that SUNY violated the New York State Open Meetings Law. Justice Baynes permanently enjoined SUNY from taking any action to close the hospital until they abide by the Open Meetings Law and all other applicable statutory provisions.

SUNY quickly rescheduled their vote for Tuesday, March 19th at 12:30 p.m. in Purchase, NY, far from the community of patients that would be impacted by the closure.

LICH is vital to the community and closing the hospital would put patients from across Brooklyn at risk. For 150 years patients have depended on LICH for emergency and primary care services. Without LICH, Brooklyn's severely over-crowded emergency rooms would be stretched beyond capacity, wait times would increase, and patient outcomes would get worse.

###

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in America. We represent over 350,000 nurses and caregivers throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Florida. Our mission is to achieve quality care and quality jobs for all.

The **New York State Nurses Association** is the voice for hundreds of thousands of frontline nurses. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses.

Concerned Physicians of LICH represents the organized physicians and allied medical professionals of Long Island College Hospital.