



June 18, 2009

Dear Board President:

The Empire State Pride Agenda is New York's statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and advocacy organization. We work closely with the New York labor movement through the Pride in Our Union program, including 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. This union has been an ally to our community by negotiating non-discrimination clauses that include sexual orientation and domestic partner health benefits and by advocating for marriage equality and a law to ban transgender discrimination.

It has been brought to our attention by 1199SEIU in Rochester that the workers at the Jordan Health Center are having major challenges in their contract negotiations with Jordan Health Center management. We also know from our supporters in Rochester, including LGBT people of color, that your health center staff includes LGBT workers and provides culturally competent health care and HIV/AIDS services to the African-American community.

At a time of economic instability, thousands of dollars expended on legal fees to fight your own dedicated staff is unfortunate and we stand in solidarity with the 1199SEIU, the health care workers at Jordan Health Center and the members of our community that are your patients.

The Empire State Pride Agenda supports your staff in their fight for a fair contract, including decent benefits that are affordable to these low-wage workers. We hope that the Jordan Health Center reaches a fair settlement with the staff and their union very soon.

With hope,

Alan Van Capelle
Executive Director

CC: Board Members, Jordan Health Center
Vice President, Bruce Popper, 1199SEIU

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