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 The Reverend Robert J Burbank, St. Vincent de Paul RC Church, East Haven  
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 Joelle Fishman, CT CPUSA, New Haven  
 Health and Safety Representative Timothy Flagg, International Association of Machinists, East Hartford

## Dear President Levin and Mr. Zaccagnino:

We are disappointed to learn that negotiations between Yale University, Yale-New Haven Hospital and their unions have not been successful, after expectations that were created by Yale's labor-management cooperation initiative.

We are equally concerned about the possibility that Yale and its unions will inflict yet another round of strikes on the Yale and New Haven communities and on Yale's wider constituencies.

That result is simply not acceptable.

As an alternative to a strike, if negotiations continue to fail, we believe that the Local 34, Local 35 and Hospital dietary contracts should be submitted to binding arbitration of unresolved issues. Yale University, Yale-New Haven Hospital and the unions should be able to negotiate settlements, but if you cannot, binding arbitration is preferable to strikes.

We hope and pray that negotiations will succeed or that binding arbitration will be accepted.

If not, and if strikes erupt again at the University and/or the Hospital, it is not acceptable for either employer to hire permanent replacements for those exercising this last alternative, and it is equally not acceptable to cancel their medical insurance. New Haven is a civilized and humane place, and so are Yale University and Yale-New Haven Hospital. Such extreme measures have no rightful place, and they will polarize the Yale and New Haven communities beyond repair.

Please listen to our pleas and our prayers.

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