



# Federation of Hospital and University Employees

District 1199 SEIU • Locals 34, 35, GESO, HERE • 425 College Street, New Haven, CT 06511 • 129 Church Street, Suite 521, New Haven, CT 06510

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## **Striking Hospital Workers Reject Latest YNHH Contract Proposal and Vote to Return to Jobs to Continue Fight**

*Plan Ongoing Pressure Campaign Inside the Hospital and In the  
Public Eye*

*New Haven, CT* — Striking food service workers at Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH), today voted to reject the hospital's latest contract proposal and return to work to continue their efforts to win wages, benefits and pensions on par with gains achieved by Yale's University workers and the right of other YNHH workers to unionize without management intimidation.

With no improvements to its offer workers denounced YNHH's "take it or leave it" bargaining posture and for showing no genuine effort to bring the labor crisis to a close. Together with the Yale Locals 34 and 35, other unions and community leaders, workers are vowing to step up the campaign to pressure YNHH trustees from both inside the hospital and in the public eye.

As part of the ongoing campaign, workers are offering to their jobs beginning immediately and are calling on YNHH to begin bargaining in good faith in order to reach a contract agreement.

"YNHH thinks they can just say take it or leave it," explained dietary worker Emma Wright. "Well, we're not taking their offer or their disrespect, and we're sure not leaving. We're not leaving our jobs, our patients, or our union."

1199/SEIU Pres. Jerry Brown said that SEIU, the nation's largest union will join with 1199, "to continue this fight here in New Haven and across the country to pressure Yale and the YNHH Trustees for as long as it takes to win dignity and justice for food service workers and all the hospital employees."

John Wilhelm, president of HERE, the parent union of Yale Locals 34 and 35 pledged full support for the dietary and other workers seeking to unionize at Yale's teaching hospital. "Our union will devote all our attention and resources to make sure the hospital workers win the respect that they deserve."

The 140 unionized dietary workers have been working without a contract since last January, 2003.

The dietary workers are members of the New England District 1199/SEIU, which represents 22,000 hospital, nursing home, state employee, and non-profit health care workers and EMTs throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island, and southern Massachusetts.

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