



Good morning. My name is Mark Hamilton, and I am the Higher Education Strategic Coordinator for AFSCME Council 28. We represent over 3,000 employees at the University of Washington and over 1,200 employees at Harborview Medical Center. I appreciate you organizing this panel and inviting me to speak on behalf of our membership. I am here this morning primarily to thank the King County Council and those in negotiations with the University of Washington over the operation of Harborview Medical Center.

On behalf of AFSCME C28's membership I thank you for demanding that the principles below of increased financial oversight and transparency, commitment to community, and of valuing employees be upheld. We also encourage you to continue your work advocating for the rights of patients and employees of the HMC community.

- 1) **Increased financial oversight and accountability:** We recommend total financial transparency at Harborview and accountability through an increased role of King County in the governance of HMC's physical and financial assets.
- 2) **Commitment to community and HMC's historic mission:** Harborview must adhere to King County's principles of serving all patients in King County by promoting fairness and opportunity while eliminating inequality. Despite our joint success with King County to prevent UW's proposed plan for the closure of community clinics, the clinics' future are far from stable. We therefore seek a commitment to adequate staffing of community clinics to ensure their continued success in serving the population of King County.
- 3) **Valuing Employees:** Harborview's greatest assets are its employees. They are highly trained and skilled. We demand of UW as the operator of the hospital that the employees be given respect and dignity in the workplace, be paid a living wage, the opportunity for advancement, and be empowered to conduct their craft in the fulfillment of the hospital's commitment to the community.

Once again I thank you for organizing this panel and inviting us to participate. I also, on behalf of our members, thank you for your tireless and often unrecognized efforts in the process of renegotiating the contract between King County and the University of Washington over the operation of Harborview Medical Center. We look forward to a continued partnership with King County in preserving the historic mission and reputation of excellence at Harborview Medical Center.

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