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The Westchester Women's Agenda supports the nurses at Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital in their action on behalf of increasing nursing staff and improving safe staffing enforcement to ensure quality patient care. The nurses have been negotiating with Montefiore for 2 years on a contract through their union representatives, the New York State Nurses Association. Central issues include better nurse/patient ratios and Montefiore's failure to provide nurses with adequate PPE and sufficient Covid-19 protocol protections.

We believe that nurses, who are on the front line for the provision of Covid-19 patient care, are in the best position to understand patients' needs and to advocate on their behalf. We also believe that the NYSNA, which acts on their behalf, is the sole source of collective representation for the rights and dignity of an occupation that is predominantly filled by women (88.2% of registered nurses are women; 86.8% of LPN and vocational nurses are women). Simply put, it is wrong to pay lip service to nurses' heroism in time of crisis but to fail to give them and their patients the tools and support they need to perform their critical functions effectively and safely.

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