

# We're Telling UW Valley Management: Hands off Our Retirement!

We took action and stood together to send a loud, clear message to UW Valley management: We do not accept your plan to suspend contributions to our retirement accounts and we are prepared to take action to ensure that our union contract is respected, especially during this deadly pandemic.

These unilateral, non-negotiated cuts to our benefits come at a time when we, as a society, are shining a light on the racial injustices that take place in our country. The wealth gap is more evident than ever, and cuts to retirement contributions will impact our lowest-wage coworkers, many of whom are Black and people of color, the most. Meanwhile, millionaire executives proclaim they will take a pay cut to offset financial losses, but we know those cuts will barely make a dent in their bank accounts.



"Valley Medical Center came after our benefits before. Now Valley is looking to attack our retirement again, hiding behind the excuse of COVID-19. They say it's temporary, but we know better! We also know that all of the hospitals are going to follow suit. We cannot let them take any more from us, not after being put at risk on a daily basis fighting this virus. We need to stand together with one voice to say 'NO MORE!' Join me and your co-workers in sending Valley a strong, united message of 'NOT NOW, NOT EVER!'"

**Mary Ann Gibbs, EVS**



"Maya Angelou said, 'When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.' Once again, Valley Medical Center is telling us who they are. In their desire to recoup financial losses due to COVID-19, they want to

eliminate the employer contribution to your retirement. A lot of you should remember the prior decimation of our pension for nothing more than a better credit rating. The money lost from this will never be recovered. This is how much they appreciate the sacrifices you have made for the community. It's time for us to stand up for what's right."

**Lynda Roberson, Ultrasound Tech**

Our union has negotiated agreements with other facilities that provide protections around furloughs and layoffs and help keep workers' paychecks whole. Cuts to our retirement accounts cannot be recovered and many of us will not be able to make up for those losses; the financial security of our families should come before the hospital's bottom line. We demand an opportunity to sit at the table, provide our input and bargain any changes to our working conditions, pay and benefits—all of which are protected under our union contract.

Our unity is our most valuable asset. More than 35,000 healthcare workers—our sisters and brothers united in SEIU Healthcare 1199NW—are ready to answer the call, stand with us and take action if necessary. An injury to one is an injury to all.

## Our community stands with us

Hundreds of neighbors, friends, family and members of our community drove by the corner of 43rd St. and Talbot St. on Thursday, honked, cheered and brought supplies and donations because they understand our sacrifice and they are grateful for the care we provide. Our co-workers spoke to local media about the effects of cuts to our retirement.







## Next steps

Share our community petition with friends and family:

[RetirementIsEssential.org](https://RetirementIsEssential.org)

We need their help in sending a bold message to management that money-saving measures should not come at the expense of our future.