

Orange County Register

Letters: Battles over Bottom Lines

Web Posted: 04/30/2005

http://www.ocregister.com/ocr/sections/commentary/letters/article_500949.php

The unprofessional "nurses association"

"I could not agree more with the article, "Nurse Ratchet" [Commentary, April 24]. It is sad and inexcusable what the California Nurses Association and other healthcare unions have done to the reputation of nursing. Nurses have worked so hard for so long to be recognized as the dedicated healthcare professionals we are only to have our reputations and public image battered and torn by the activities of a misguided and vocal minority lead by a former teamster and grocery-store checker, cq Rose Ann Demoro, who is not a nurse.

While I agree that more nurses and less patients per nurse would improve patient care, I do not agree with the narrow-minded and strict enforcement demanded by the CNA. Nursing shortage or not the decision on staffing must be guided by current patient load and acuity, and that decision can only be made at the unit level.

The comment that a mediocre nursing student has the same shot as an exemplary one in the job market rings true. The unions perpetuate mediocrity. The unions want equal pay for all nurses based on years of service. No merit pay for exemplary service. Nurses who constantly keep up their education, obtaining more than the required continuing education units to keep up their licenses and provide exceptional care gets no financial reward for their efforts.

The union says merit raises encourage favoritism. So the mediocre nurse gets the same pay as the outstanding one. Who do you want caring for you or your loved one? I encourage current nurses, futures nurses, the public and the governor to see through the union hard-line rhetoric and not give in to the union's demands. I hope that the public image of nurses is not permanently damaged by the public displays of unprofessionalism of the California Nurses Association.

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