



Legislation Text

File #: 60276, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No appropriation required.

Title

Recognizing, supporting and honoring the heroic work and sacrifices of our city's frontline health care workers.

Body

WHEREAS, healthcare workers in the City of Madison have endured through struggle, sacrifice, and risk on the front lines of this pandemic to keep our community safe; and,

WHEREAS, the Nurses of SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin at Meriter cited a lack of transparency about PPE and requests for paid sick leave and hazard pay in a recent petition; and,

WHEREAS, no employee who falls ill or loses work while combating COVID-19 should lose pay, benefits or be negatively impacted in any at their job; and

WHEREAS, on April 10th the Wisconsin Hospitals Association reported that more than a third of hospitals have less than a week's worth supply of face shields, N95 masks, and paper medical masks ; and,

WHEREAS, frontline healthcare workers are reporting that the lack of proper protective equipment has forced them to reuse potentially contaminated masks that are typically used only once; and,

WHEREAS, we depend on health care workers to care for our families and communities during this crisis; and,

WHEREAS, the health of our healthcare workers is essential to the health of our Madison community and the voices of healthcare workers and their safety are directly linked to the safety of patients; and,

WHEREAS, transparency is crucial during a time of crisis and communication should extend to every frontline healthcare worker to avoid confusion and division; and,

WHEREAS, due to a nationwide shortage of nurses, staffing levels at hospitals are often insufficient even in normal times; and,

WHEREAS, hospital staff are being asked to work outside their normal areas and into new areas for which they are untrained and into areas of greater risk; and,

WHEREAS, hospital staff need training, tools and assistance to perform these new duties; and,

WHEREAS, hazard pay is a reasonable and just means of compensating hospital staff for putting their lives and their families' lives at risk; and,

WHEREAS, hazard pay offers an incentive for hospital staff to take on additional shifts; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Madison Common Council recognizes, supports, and honors the heroic work and sacrifices of our city's frontline health care workers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Madison Common Council joins these workers in the urgent call for adequate and proper PPE; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Madison Common Council agrees these workers should be provided hazard pay to compensate for their possible exposure to the coronavirus; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Madison Common Council stands in solidarity with the doctors, nurses, EMTs, firefighters, hospital cleaning staff and other frontline workers putting their lives on the line for the City of Madison during the current crisis, offering our deepest gratitude for their bravery and sacrifice.

<https://www.channel3000.com/wisconsin-hospitals-report-shortages-of-ppe/>