

# Reclaiming **Worker Power** Energizing **Our Movement**

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

## **CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION IN HEALTHCARE** RESOLUTION #2024.29

WHEREAS, Washington state has experienced continued consolidation within the healthcare industry, with ongoing growth of large healthcare corporations; and

WHEREAS, these corporate systems grow primarily through mergers, acquisitions, or affiliations with local community hospitals; and

WHEREAS, four large systems (CommonSpirit/Catholic Health Initiatives, Providence, PeaceHealth, and MultiCare) are increasingly dominant in Washington; and

WHEREAS, three of these four systems span several states, meaning that decisions are often made in corporate offices that lack understanding of the needs of community members and workers; and

WHEREAS, corporate acquisition of local hospitals has often led to sharp reductions or elimination of access to reproductive health care, end-of-life, and gender-affirming care; and

WHEREAS, healthcare systems have closed down units or entire hospitals, sometimes with little notice, often leading to loss of vital services, to the detriment of marginalized populations and communities as well as workers; and

WHEREAS, current Washington law provides weak oversight of healthcare consolidation and virtually no oversight of service or hospital closures; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) supports efforts to provide for more effective state scrutiny and oversight of proposed healthcare consolidation and closure of hospitals, hospital units, and elimination of services; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that review of proposed consolidations and closures should focus on protecting access to care, affordability, quality, health care equity, and the healthcare workforce, providing opportunity for state agency review and public input from communities and labor.