

Lynne Simpson

## Issues Facing the Healthcare Union Today

Union jobs are declining due to the anti-union legislation that will affect healthcare. The legislation known as "Right to work" law states that one can get a job without having to be a part of a union. Workers can get a job, obtain benefits from their employer without having to pay any union dues. What people fail to understand is that healthcare unions protect the healthcare worker by insuring safe staffing by eliminating mandatory overtime which could easily result in unsafe nursing care to patients.

Our country today has an anti-union atmosphere. There are also numerous states that are Anti-union. These states have signed a bill which will eliminate "prevailing wages". This in turn will decrease pay and will eliminate labor agreements. The Healthcare Union must remain strong and unified even with all the changes that are occurring within the legislative side and all the federal cuts.

The younger generation must be willing to fight for their rights by speaking out and letting their voices be heard. They need to understand the important issues that could affect the future health care workers of America. Healthcare workers banded together and supporting unions will help with protecting the future of healthcare job workers, patient safety and patient care.

My future in healthcare as well as all others may be affected if unions are eliminated. There will be no voices to protect us from mandatory overtime resulting in a trickle effect that will result in the possibility of poor patient care as well as no voice to protect staff safety and job protection.