



## ***Bargaining Update: Day 1 of August Bargaining Session with Red Cross***

This week, the Union Coalition resumed contract negotiations with the Red Cross at its headquarters in Washington, DC, in an attempt to reach an agreement.

### **The Union Coalition's Bargaining Team returned to the bargaining table, but Red Cross is not ready to reach an agreement.**

The bargaining session began with the Coalition meeting with Chris Hrouda, President of Biomedical Services. The Coalition strongly encouraged Hrouda to provide more resources to support important bargaining proposals that would improve working conditions for thousands of employees. The Coalition also discussed the results of its recent Quality of Life survey which revealed that 25% of Red Cross bargaining unit employees receive some form of public assistance because they are unable to make ends meet on their Red Cross salaries. With the average bargaining unit employee making \$36,000 a year, workers expressed difficulty accessing basic necessities such as medical care or groceries. The Coalition has presented these and other stories from members across the bargaining table, yet the Red Cross continues to present proposals that will not provide the security and stability that workers deserve!

**There are 32 days left until the current agreement expires!**

The Coalition rejected the Red Cross' last economic proposal and provided responses on all remaining open issues to encourage the Red Cross to respond with proposals that can lead to an agreement. These issues included proposals on wages, healthcare, leave, schedules, etc. Red Cross continues to express a zero-sum approach that exchanges improvements in one area for declines in others. The Union Coalition and Red Cross continue to remain apart from one another on economic issues, and Red Cross has not displayed actions that reflect the urgency needed to come to an agreement before the current contract expires.

The Union Coalition is ready to do whatever it takes to reach an agreement that will improve the lives of Red Cross workers across the country, including job actions. We will not settle for changes that move us back!

**KEEP WEARING YOUR UNITED BUTTONS!** We are UNITED and will continue to stay UNITED until we secure an agreement that moves us FORWARD!

