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## **NYC COUNCIL TO HOLD HEARING ON NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN EXORBITANT PRICES**

### ***Dozens to Rally in Demand of Cost-Control and Transparency in Hospital Pricing***

**New York, NY**— On Monday, 32BJ officials, community allies and healthcare experts will testify at a New York City Council hearing in support of finding solutions to New York-Presbyterian (NYP) skyrocketing hospital costs that are putting at risk healthcare benefits for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Following the hearing, co-chaired by Councilwoman Carlina Rivera and Councilman Mark Levine, 32BJ members and allies will hold a rally outside City Hall.

**BACKGROUND:** There are real and unnecessary differences in what 32BJ members must pay for the same care at different hospitals. For example, a hip replacement at NYP has cost patients an average of \$83,000 while the average cost at other city hospitals is has been just \$58,000. Hospitals frequently keep their rates secret, so there is no way for a patient to compare costs before receiving care.

32BJ SEIU, the building service workers' union is leading the charge for quality, affordable health care for all New Yorkers. The union has won affordable benefits for its members that include premium-free family coverage, low copays, and a network of thousands of doctors that have real life-changing impact in the quality of life of 32BJ members. But, unnecessary, exorbitant costs at force 32BJ's Health Fund to spend money that could instead be used to cover other care. Unnecessarily high prices hurt New York families and communities.

This comes in the context of NYP and Empire bargaining for a new contract and Presbyterian threatening to leave the Empire network. If this happens nearly 3 million people who have coverage through Empire, either through Medicaid, Medicare, the Marketplace, employer and fund plans, etc. would lose NYP from their insurance network. Planned care at NYP would become prohibitively expensive for New Yorkers because they would be at risk for large bills, up to full charges.

**WHAT:** NYC Council hearing on New York-Presbyterian exorbitant hospital prices followed by a rally in support of hospital price transparency

**WHEN/WHERE:** Monday, November 19

- CITY COUNCIL HEARING 1:00 pm (250 Broadway, NY, NY - 16th Floor Committee Room)
- RALLY: 2:30 pm (Steps of City Hall - enter at Broadway and Murray Streets)

**WHO:** 32BJ SEIU members and Treasurer Kyle Bragg will be joined by 32BJ Health Fund director Sarah Rothstein, a DC37 representative, Segal Group Senior Vice President and National Health Practice Leader Edward Kaplan at the hearing and community allies, concerned citizens and elected officials are expected to join the rally including City Council members Jumaane Williams, Francisco Moya, Mark Levine, Fernando Cabrera and Bill Perkins.

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With 163,000 members in 11 states, 32BJ SEIU is the largest property services union in the country.