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*President*

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**Kaiser Permanente Union Healthcare Workers in Georgia Vote Overwhelmingly To Approve Strike Authorization.**

**Suwanee, GA** – Workers at Kaiser Permanente, including nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare staff in Georgia, represented by United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1996, voted 96% in favor of approving a strike authorization during their contract negotiations with Kaiser Permanente.

This follows a negotiation process where Kaiser Permanente proposed to slash basic cost-of-living increases and benefits, as well as institute a regressive two-tier wage system. [You can see a summary of bargaining proposals here.](#)

A strike authorization approval does not mean the union members are immediately going on strike, but that UFCW Local 1996 can call for a strike in the near future if there cannot be an agreement addressing safe staffing, patient care, and a fair contract. UFCW 1996's members are joined by tens of thousands of other workers who are part of the 21-union Alliance of Health Care Unions, many of which have now authorized strikes as well.

Steve Lomax, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1996, released the following statement:

“This is a time when companies like Kaiser Permanente should be investing in our essential healthcare workers, not creating a race to the bottom for the workers who keep us healthy and safe. These workers have given everything: from time with their families to their health and safety, to make sure patients are taken care of in the middle of the [deadliest pandemic in American history](#). The fact that Kaiser Permanente executives want to take this opportunity to flatline wages and benefits for these workers is not only wrong, but it also hurts the health and wellness of our communities across Georgia.”

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