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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SEIU Healthcare Michigan Members Demand Fair Wages from West Shore Medical Center**  
*West Shore blames revenue slump for union/non-union pay disparity during negotiations*

MUSKEGON, MI--SEIU Healthcare Michigan members from Manistee, are facing hardships in negotiations with West Shore Medical Center. Despite a 3.5% wage increase promised to non-union workers, West Shore officials blame a financial downturn for their refusal to raise wages by the same percentage for their unionized employees. The West Shore workers' contract expired in March but has been extended for negotiations.

While West Shore accounts revenue loss for the wage disparity, the hospital is investing in major renovations, including an \$8.8 million project to renovate its critical care unit. According to Vicki Schwan, West Shore medical technician and SEIU Healthcare member, "I got involved in the union because I want everybody treated fairly. All we want is to be treated equally. After all, we're the front lines in the hospital we deserve respect and I'm standing up to make sure we get it."

West Shore's disparities go beyond wages; paid leave for the hospital's office staff exceeds that of other hospital workers by two days per year. The hospital's 150 unionized workers, which primarily include service workers and technicians, are currently weighing bargaining options for wages and benefits. Conversations are expected to emerge at the West Shore board meeting on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The SEIU Healthcare Michigan members' goal is to receive a raise of at least 3.5% by October 3, 2007.

SEIU Healthcare Michigan is Michigan's largest local union with more than 55,000 members. The union is comprised of home care workers, registered nurses, nursing home aides and hospital support staff who are united to ensure access to quality care for all.

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