

Brothers, sisters and siblings,

Here we are at Day 11 and we are holding strong. The company is playing hardball and pulling out all the stops to make this more difficult. It's amazing how low they will go to scare us and shake our world. It is clear we are strong and keeping up great solidarity, as our picket lines are larger than ever. We are working on more things at the hall to bring you resources to help. So, stay tuned and stay strong!

SO, the next issue at hand...Healthcare.

The State is working hard to bring us a special enrollment period for Insurance. There are many options that include the COBRA continuation of your current healthcare that the company is required to offer. But there are other options as well under the CT Marketplace from the Affordable Care Act and HIPPA.

CT Access Health CT will present a ZOOM meeting on Tuesday May 20th to communicate an overview of Access Health CT. They will explain the process, who they are, what they do, what they offer, and how they can help and our next steps. There will also be time for questions and answers to ensure that you understand the process. If you opt into COBRA coverage before considering your Access Health options, then you will be unable to enroll in this program. Keep in mind, you have two months from loss of coverage to pick up COBRA. If Access Health isn't for you, consider COBRA or other alternative coverage. The Access Health options will most likely be much less expensive, and some of us may qualify for Husky, Medicaid and other CT programs.

Then on Wednesday, May 21st, from 9 AM to 4 PM will be the first of two special enrollment days where we will be able to sign up for the best option. This first date will be at the East Hartford union hall. Advisors who specialize in this will be here to determine the best options for each individual and family. We will be providing a special flyer from them tomorrow, after they finalize it. Also, we will provide a checklist as soon as we get it of the information you will need to bring to sign up. Do not sign up on line now for CT Access Health plans. Our special enrollment is the only way to get healthcare to start at the earliest possible date.

A second special enrollment date is preliminarily scheduled for May 28th and the location is to be determined. As details are solidified, we will let you all know.

We can get through this together if we stay strong. Solidarity is the key to getting the company back to the negotiation table and allowing us to bargain for a better contract. We are working on support but please know that we are all going through the same concerns.

Also, enrollment as a dependent on other insurance. You may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period on your partner's employer sponsored insurance. Most health insurance plans enable their participants to enroll an eligible family member midyear due to them losing their own insurance due to a strike. To find out more information, your spouse should contact the HR department of their employer.