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## **ARHS NURSES RATIFY CONTRACT** *Joint Statement on Contract Ratification by ARHS and SEIU.*

(Altoona, PA) – Altoona Regional and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare Pennsylvania are pleased to announce that registered nurses have ratified their first contract with the health system.

The agreement provides:

- ✓ A 16 percent wage increase over a 33-month contract.
- ✓ A “modified union shop” meaning there is a “maintenance of membership” provision for current employees and a “union shop” provision for new employees.
- ✓ An increase in call pay, shift differential, vacation and longevity pay.
- ✓ No changes for existing RNs in their retirement plan (a defined benefit plan). RNs hired after June 30, 2008, will be enrolled in a new defined contribution plan with a health system match.
- ✓ Establishment of a committee where RNs and management can discuss staffing and patient care issues.
- ✓ An attempt to limit mandatory overtime, where feasible, by

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(MORE)

assigning it on a rotating basis limited to four-hour increments.

Any RN who volunteers to work four or more hours of overtime will not be required, where possible, to work overtime in the next seven days.

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*SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania is the state's largest and fastest-growing union of nurses and other health care workers, representing nearly 8,000 RNs and over 20,000 employees in hospitals, nursing homes, home care, and state facilities. For more information go to [www.seihealthcarepa.org](http://www.seihealthcarepa.org)*