



Media Advisory

November 16, 2011

## **Nurses Join Students, Occupy Movement, other Labor Unions, to Demand Wall Street Tax on National Day of Protest Thursday**

From California to Washington D.C., registered nurse members of National Nurses United (NNU) will join protests alongside students, consumer advocates, Occupy participants, environmental groups and other labor unions Thursday to send a message from Main Street—the time for Wall Street to pay back is long overdue.

NNU, the largest union and professional association of nurses in the U.S. says it is acting in response to a broad and profound decline in the health status and living standards of millions of Americans linked to enduring economic hardship.

From ailments tied to poor nutrition to patients foregoing needed medical care because of cost, communities across the country are in serious trouble, say the RNs. NNU members reason that a tax on Wall Street, where profits continue to be enormous, could help fund critical needs, including health care for all, jobs at living wages, and full funding for quality public education.

NNU has been pressing for a small tax on Wall Street financial transactions, which economists estimate could raise up to \$350 billion dollars a year to help heal the economy. Support for a financial transaction tax (FTT) has been growing both nationally and internationally among an extensive coalition – student organizations, labor unions and the Occupy movement. An FTT was in effect in the U.S. from 1914 to 1966.

Among the major protests on Thursday is a one-day strike called by the California Faculty Association (CFA) which represents 24,000 faculty, coaches, counselors and librarians at the California State University system. The strike will take place on two CSU Campuses-- CSU East Bay and CSU Dominguez Hills.

“CNA/NNU stands with the CFA members fight for California students to have access to quality public education,” said Malinda Markowitz, RN and co-president of the California Nurses Association/NNU. “It is wrong that tuition at CSU campuses has risen 23 percent in the past year and students have been unable to get into classes and yet the number of CSU executives and their pay continues to increase.

“There’s an economic emergency in every corner of our country. We need to put thousands to work repairing our crumbling infrastructure--bridges, roads and schools. We need to keep people in their homes. We need to fund our schools so they can provide quality education. We need to ensure that all people have access to quality affordable healthcare,” added Markowitz.

**Here is a partial listing of events NNU RNs will be joining:**

**California:**

- **Carson:** California State University Dominguez Hills: *Strike by California Faculty Association*, Thursday, Nov. 17-6:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Rally, Noon, California State University Dominguez Hills, 1000 East Victoria Street, Gate E on Victoria Street
- **Hayward:** California State University East Bay: *Strike by California Faculty Association* Thursday, Nov. 17- 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Rally-Noon; Speech by Dr. Cornell West, 4:00 p.m. 25800 Carlos Bee Boulevard, Corner of Carlos Bee Blvd and Loop Road
- **Eureka:** *March for Good Jobs by Occupy Eureka, Central Labor Council and NNU* Thursday, Nov. 17-2:00 p.m. at Eureka Slough Bridge, Highway 101, as you leave Eureka to the north
- **Santa Cruz:** *We are the 99%!* Thursday, Nov. 17-5:00 p.m., Water Street Bridge, between Ocean and River Streets, Downtown
- **San Francisco:** *Make Wall Street Pay: ReFUND PUBLIC EDUCATION!* Wednesday Nov. 16-12:30 p.m., Rally at Justin Herman Plaza –1:00 p.m.-March on the banks 4:00 p.m. - People’s Assembly for Public Education: State Building 455 Golden Gate Ave.
- **San Jose:** *Rebuild the American Dream: Occupy the Streets Solidarity March* Thursday, Nov. 17-5:00 p.m., March from San Jose State University MLK Library (S. 4th St. and E. San Fernando St.) to San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street
- **San Rafael:** *Super Committee Shout Out* Thursday, November 17-4:00 p.m., Bank of America 1000 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- **Santa Rosa** Thursday, November 17-11:45 a.m. Railroad Square West Fourth Street and Wilson Street
- **Walnut Creek :** *National Day of Action to Make Wall Street Pay Rally* Thursday, Nov. 17- 11:00 a.m., Corner of Main St. & Mt. Diablo Blvd.

NNU members will also be joining actions in Boston, Washington DC, and Chicago.