



**STATE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE**

1212 JEFFERSON ST. S.E. SUITE 300, OLYMPIA WA 98501-2332  
(360) 352-7603 • (800) 562-6002 • FAX (360) 352-7608

September 27, 2021

Susan Mullaney, Regional President  
KPWA - Metropolitan Park East  
1730 Minor Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Sent via electronic mail to:**  
[susan.e.mullaney@kp.org](mailto:susan.e.mullaney@kp.org)

Ms. Mullaney:

The Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE/AFSCME Council 28) is in full support of the 52,000 health care union members from 21 locals in the Alliance of Health Care Unions in contract negotiations again this year with Kaiser Permanente. The Alliance of Health Care Unions includes the locals of AFSCME, UFCW, USW, IBT, KPNAA, IUOE, AFT, UNITE HERE, ILWU, and HNHP.

The Alliance unions of Kaiser Permanente have been a major part of sustaining the largest and longest-lasting labor-management partnership in the United States—illustrating that strong relationships among labor, management and physicians can lead to quality care and better health outcomes. Front-line unionized employees make Kaiser Permanente an employer of choice and a provider of choice by engaging in daily mutual decision-making and problem-solving, working confidently under the best possible employment and income security agreement, and actively persuading organizations all over the country to utilize Kaiser Permanente’s health plan.

Kaiser Permanente has been successful under this partnership, with a 2020 profit of \$2.2 billion, healthy average operating margins over the past decade, expanded health plan membership, and the doubling of its unionized partnership workforce—even as health systems have folded and union membership has declined in other areas.

In an era of health care disparity, uncertainty, and competition, Kaiser Permanente and its partnership unions must successfully remain united in the purpose of providing better access to high quality health care for millions of people and creating the industry-leading jobs that every community needs in order to thrive.

Tens of thousands of health care workers throughout Kaiser Permanente’s enterprise—whose commitment to patients have saved countless lives —must emerge from these consequential negotiations with a new contract that empowers them with the personal security, dignity, and the decision-making capacity in the workplace necessary for the best care of our families and our communities.

OLYMPIA FIELD OFFICE  
906 Columbia St. SW, Suite 500  
Olympia, WA 98501

SEATTLE FIELD OFFICE  
6363 7th Ave. S., Suite 220  
Seattle WA 98108

SPOKANE FIELD OFFICE  
222 W Mission Ave, Ste 201  
Spokane, WA 99201

TACOMA FIELD OFFICE  
6003 Tacoma Mall Blvd.  
Tacoma, WA 98409

MEMBER CONNECTION CENTER 1-833-MCC-WFSE (1-833-622-9373)


On behalf of over 46,000 public service workers represented by WFSE/AFSCME Council 28 in Washington State, we recognize the choice in offering Kaiser Permanente Health Benefits to our members not only helps in providing quality care to and their families – it also supports the excellent jobs and exceptional level of care needed for our collective health as a labor community.

As a matter of fact, a formal resolution in support of Alliance health care union members will be presented to the full governance board of WFSE on October 7, 2021, with unanimous support from the WFSE Executive Committee. This resolution is also expected to be considered by the full delegate body representing over 46,000 public service workers at the WFSE Constitutional Convention scheduled October 9-10, 2021.

We express firm support for and solidarity with 52,000 Alliance health care union members empowered through our historic partnership to sustain high-quality care on behalf of all families and individuals –particularly impacting our members who choose Kaiser Permanente’s health plan.

We pledge to bring public attention to issues raised by Kaiser Permanente employees and their unions during these negotiations—thereby improving the power of our collective aim to secure leading wages, quality work-life, and quality care through labor and community alliances across the United States.

In Solidarity,



Leanne P. Kunze  
Executive Director  
WFSE/AFSCME Council 28

cc Denise Duncan, UNAC President ([Denise.Duncan@UNACUHPC.org](mailto:Denise.Duncan@UNACUHPC.org))  
Joe Guzynski, UNAC Executive Director ([Joe.guzynski@unacuhcp.org](mailto:Joe.guzynski@unacuhcp.org))  
Lee Saunders, AFSCME President ([LSaunders@AFSCME.org](mailto:LSaunders@AFSCME.org))  
Hal Ruddick, Executive Director of Alliance ([Hal.Ruddick@ahcunions.org](mailto:Hal.Ruddick@ahcunions.org))