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## **Statement from SEIU Local 49 on Fourth Quarter of 2020 Oregon Hospital Financial Reports**

Oregon Health Authority released [data](#) today declaring, "Oregon hospitals end 2020 in the black." A look at the data reveals that not only did hospitals end 2020 in the black, the statewide total margin at the end of 2020 exceeded all prior quarters included in the data dashboard, back to 2007.

Analysis shows:

- 1. Operating margins in Oregon passed national average.** Oregon hospitals' operating margin (3.3%) even exceeded the nationwide average (2.7%).
- 2. Even with the ongoing pandemic, many hospitals had higher operating margins.** More than 40 percent of Oregon hospitals reported higher operating margins in 2020 compared to the previous year. The reported increase is notable, considering 2019 was a banner year for Oregon hospital profits.
  - a. Top-earning hospitals reported double-digit margins in 2020.** The top 5 were: Salem Health West Valley (18.7%), Samaritan Lebanon (17.0%), St. Charles Prineville (15.1%), Providence Newberg (14.0%) and Samaritan Pacific Communities (13.7%).
- 3. Despite profits, many hospitals failed to invest in their frontline workers.** The most egregious examples include hospital housekeeping and nursing assistant staff, who do the critical work of disinfecting rooms and caring for patients.
  - a.** While housekeepers are often among the lowest paid workers in the hospital, they faced COVID exposure rates more than 50% higher than nurses and roughly double those of nurse practitioners, physician assistants and doctors.
- 4. Declining revenues used an excuse by some Oregon hospitals to deny critical frontline workers the pay, benefits and safe working conditions they deserve.**
  - a.** At Legacy Emanuel, not only have housekeeping staff been denied hazard pay, but managers reduced housekeeping staff's shifts from 8 hours to 7 and a half per day early in the pandemic— without reducing their workload. These workers are currently asking for a return to full-day shifts and pay that recognizes their essential work.
  - b.** Samaritan Health systems had two of the five most profitable hospitals in the state in 2020, with double-digit operating margins. In fact, Samaritan's overall operating profits increased more than ten-fold between 2019 and 2020 -- from \$4 million to over \$50 million. Despite these earnings, wages for housekeeping and entry-level nursing assistant staff at Samaritan hospitals start at less than \$15/hr.

**SEIU Local 49's Political Director, Felisa Hagins, commented on this trend adding,** "It's frustrating to see just how profitable the hospitals were throughout the pandemic, given that when workers asked for PPE, hazard pay, and various protections over the past year they were often told no. It's time for

hospitals whose entire mission is caring for the health of people and communities to stop putting profits first.”

**About SEIU Local 49:**

SEIU Local 49 is a union of more than 15,000 members throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members work in a variety of facilities in the healthcare, security, custodial and service industries. Our mission as a union is to achieve a higher standard of living for our members, their families, and dependents by elevating their social conditions and by striving to create a more just society.

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