

# United Nurses Stand Against Outlaw Prime

## Prime Prosecuted for Targeting Caregivers

Prime Healthcare is a rich, for-profit hospital chain, under prosecution by the federal government for breaking the law by targeting its own nurses—the caregivers for its patients.



### *Charges against Prime:*

- Unlawful firing and discipline of nurses for organizing to improve patient care and working conditions
- Unlawful threats and retaliation against nurses for organizing to speak up
- Refusal to sit down with nurses to bargain improvements to patient care

At Prime hospitals Chino Valley Medical Center and Garden Grove Hospital & Medical Center, nurses have joined together to stand up for quality patient care against illegal attacks by Prime. The 20,000-strong United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) has worked with the federal government to protect caregivers and patients.

**Nurses are primary caregivers and patient advocates. An attack against nurses is an attack against patient care.**

## Prime is Bad for Your Community

The Prime method for “turning around” financially strapped hospitals is simple: Prime puts profits over people.

When Prime comes into a community, it has:

- **Cut vital but low-profit health services** like chemotherapy treatments and mental health care<sup>1</sup>
- **Cut wages and benefits**—like health care—for its caregivers
- **Attempted to silence patient advocates**—its own nurses and health care professionals—through unlawful threats and retaliation

***Prime drives out good jobs and drives down wages, harming the economy, families and the community.***

## Prime “Healthcare” is Bad for Community Health: Keep Prime Out of Victor Valley

The mission of UNAC/UHCP is to empower health care professionals to be advocates for members and patients: to create a high quality work environment; to provide economic and professional advancement; and to improve the quality of healthcare.

[unacuhcp.org](http://unacuhcp.org) | [facebook.com/UnitedNursesCA](https://facebook.com/UnitedNursesCA)



<sup>1</sup>Los Angeles Times, July 8, 2007, “Hospital Group Rejects System and Cashes In”

# PRIME TARGET #2: *Fighting Prime in Victor Valley*



## UNAC/UHCP Testifies Against Prime Healthcare's Expansion

Garden Grove Registered Nurses' Association President Helen Bouman, RN, and UNAC/UHCP Staff Attorney Lisa Demidovich, testified on Wednesday, August 17 about Prime Healthcare's unlawful and damaging treatment of its RNs at Garden Grove and Chino Valley Medical Center. We urged the California State Attorney General not to approve the sale of Victor Valley Community Hospital to Prime.

Nurses, patients victimized by Prime, community groups, doctors and other unions all packed Victorville City Hall to oppose Prime.

Testimony on Prime's practice of trapping patients in its hospitals for lengthy, expensive stays came from local doctors and the family of a patient who died at Prime's Desert Valley Hospital. Diagnosed with leukemia, she had a transfer order to another hospital for chemotherapy which Prime refused, instead kicking the patient's mother out of the hospital. The mother was keeping vigil in the parking lot when her daughter died.

## UNAC/UHCP Stands Up for RNs and Quality Patient Care

Keep updated at [www.unachuhcp.org](http://www.unachuhcp.org)

*"At Garden Grove Hospital, Prime let all the insurance contracts lapse. If they do that here, where are people going to go?"*



Helen Bouman, RN

--Helen Bouman, RN, President, Garden Grove Registered Nurses Association, testifying to CA Attorney General's office

*"Prime proposed massive cuts for RNs in pay and benefits to grow the Prime Empire at the expense of the Garden Grove community.*



Bouman & Attorney Lisa Demidovich

*"Chino Valley RNs voted overwhelmingly for representation by UNAC/UHCP, but Prime has ignored that decision and entered into a four-front legal battle to avoid its legal obligation to bargain with the RNs.*

*"Selling Victor Valley Community Hospital to Prime is decidedly not in the public interest."*

--UNAC/UHCP Attorney Lisa Demidovich's testimony to the Attorney General's office

Turn over for the leaflet we passed out in Victorville