

Media Advisory for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 9:30 am

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Essential American Red Cross Workers and Allies are Sounding the Alarm About Workplace Conditions and Understaffing Threatening the Nation's Already Fragile Blood Supply

Pomona Event One of Several Across the Country in Support of Thousands of Frontline Workers Who are Calling for a Fair Contract That Protects Donors and Helps Address America's Blood Shortage

POMONA — As the country faces its worst blood shortage in over a decade, American Red Cross staffers who are critical to the collection and maintenance of these vital reserves are sounding the alarm about working conditions that could make an already dire situation catastrophic.

A contingent of Southern California staffers represented by SEIU 721 are holding a small event in Pomona in solidarity with thousands of ARC workers who have risked their lives to continue maintaining the nation's blood supply throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

This event is part of a national mobilization of ARC workers and allies in multiple cities across the country standing against American Red Cross' mistreatment of essential blood drive staff.

In an ironic twist, ARC management is proposing rolling back health care benefits for the very employees whose work make medical treatment possible for millions of Americans. ARC has refused to negotiate a fair contract that addresses unsafe working conditions, including dangerous understaffing. The workers say these conditions significantly contribute to the nation's blood shortage crisis because Red Cross's treatment of workers makes it difficult to retain trained, dedicated staff.

On May 9, events will be held in Peoria, IL; Lansing, MI; and on May 11 in Pomona, CA and Washington, DC. It is well past time these essential workers received essential benefits and protections.

WHO: American Red Cross Frontline Workers represented by SEIU 721 (*Spanish speaker available*)

WHAT: Small rally and press event echoing the demands of front-line American Red Cross workers in their fight for a fair contract — respect us, protect us and hands off our health care.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 11 at 9:30 am

WHERE: **American Red Cross Headquarters**
100 Red Cross Cir, Pomona CA 91768

VISUALS: Pro-worker signs and banners, Speaker program

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