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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NORTH DAKOTA UNIONS HOST DRIVE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

*N95 Masks and PPE donation drive at Bismarck and Fargo Labor Halls this weekend*

MARCH 24, 2020 – The North Dakota AFL-CIO, in partnership with the Minnesota Nurses Association, North Dakota Building Trades Unions, West Area Labor Council/Red River Valley, Northern Plains United Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the Red River Building Trades Council will be hosting a Personal Protective Equipment donation drive this weekend at Labor Halls in Bismarck and Fargo.

Unions will be accepting donations of new N95 masks and protective equipment, which will be distributed to hospitals in North Dakota.

“It’s incredibly important that we ensure the health and safety of the frontline workers in healthcare, always, but especially in this pandemic. These workers having the proper Personal Protective Equipment is vital to all our health and safety,” North Dakota AFL-CIO President Landis Larson said.

“Those of us in the Building and Construction Trades understand how important it is to have the right tools to do the job. The medical community needs the right tools to help many during this pandemic. The Building Trades Unions stand ready to do our part to get the tools for the good of us all,” North Dakota Building Trades President Jason Ehlert said.

“Healthcare workers are on the front lines every day caring for patients— we can only protect patients if we’re first able to protect ourselves. Nurses are asking for enough personal protective equipment, so we can continue to care for all of our patients. N95 masks are the best way to prevent nurses from contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others. We know corporate healthcare isn’t the answer to this crisis. We’re asking the community to stand in solidarity with us and help ensure we have the tools to give patients in our community the care that they deserve,” Minnesota Nurses Association member and St. Alexius nurse Lauren Buol said.

**Bismarck Labor Hall: Sat 12-2 Sun 12-2 <https://www.facebook.com/events/204552207520622/>**

**Fargo Labor Hall: Sat 12-3 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1531000947062621/>**

**WHERE:** Fargo-Moorhead Labor Temple (3002 1st Ave N. Fargo) and Bismarck Labor Temple - (1323 East Front Ave, Bismarck)

**WHEN:** Fargo: Saturday, March 28, 12pm-3pm Bismarck: Saturday, March 28&29 12-2.

**WHY:** To replace the shortage of certified N95 masks in North Dakota hospitals

**HOW:** Come to Labor Temple, remain in car, staff will accept masks

**WHAT:** Certified N95 masks from healthcare or construction uses, new and unused Tyvek/Hazmat suits, Safety Goggles, Latex-free gloves, Electric respirators, PAPRs.