

My name is Anna Johnson and I am a registered nurse with CountyCare, an affiliate of Cook County Health and Hospital Systems.

When I describe my nursing job, I always tell people I am a community health nurse- I work in the community, in people's homes, to help them live with as much health and happiness as possible. I am passionate about the work I do but I know I could do more, and make a larger public health impact, if I wasn't bogged down by continuous discussions that show a disrespect and lack of prioritization of my nursing role. My nurse colleagues and I are repeatedly and consistently surrounded by issues related to staffing, pay, benefits, and safety that create an unsupported and undervalued work culture. I want to give 100% to my patients and the health of the community but instead I am forced to spend my mental energy worrying and working to hold leadership accountable and fight for fairness.