



Martha Baker

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Confronting the Chronic Care Challenge
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Martha Baker is the Nurse Manager of the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at Florida's Jackson Memorial Hospital, one of the largest public hospitals in the country. As President of SEIU Healthcare Florida Local 1991 and a leader of the national 90,000-member SEIU Nurse Alliance, Ms. Baker has been a leader at the local and national levels on a wide range of patient care issues. From her unique perspective as an ICU nurse and labor movement activist, Ms. Baker has testified before Congress on numerous occasions on the challenges facing the nursing profession today, including setting safe nurse staffing levels, implementing safe lifting, banning the unsafe practice of mandatory overtime in hospitals, protecting health care workers from the dangers of air-borne and blood-borne infectious diseases, and other policy, safety, and regulatory matters. In the last few years, Ms. Baker testified before the U.S. Senate on the President's controversial proposals to vaccinate health care workers against the possibility of smallpox.

Since her graduation from Ohio State University's School of Nursing in 1979, Ms. Baker has dedicated her life to effective patient advocacy and improving the quality of patient care in our nation's hospitals. She currently resides in Miami, Florida, where she is a member of the Nursing Shortage Consortium of South Florida and as the prominent RN leader and nurse voice for union and non-union nurses in the state.