



**Government of the United States Virgin Islands
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**



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Chief Negotiator

**HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS
AND HUMAN SERVICES
TESTIMONY OF THE
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
JUNE 7, 2023**

Good day, Honorable Senator Ray Fonseca, Chairman of the Health, Hospitals and Human Services Committee, Vice Chairman Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, other Committee Members: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Marvin A. Blyden, Diane T. Capehart, Samuel Carrion, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Marise E. James, and Milton E. Potter and any other non-committee members present. My name is Joss Springette, and I am the Chief Negotiator at the Office of Collective Bargaining. In response to your invitation, I am here to testify on the status of the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) for the Registered Nurses Leadership Union (RNLU), Virgin Islands State Nurses Association (VISNA), Licensed Practical Nurses Association (LPNA), and Public Health Physicians represented by the Seafarers International Union (SIU).

All the nurse unions discussed today represent nurses with various levels of expertise who are employed at the Department of Health and our hospitals. The RNLU represents registered nurses in leadership positions. Their last CBA expired on September 30, 2020, and is on a day-to-day extension while negotiations are ongoing. VISNA represents non-supervisory registered nurses. Negotiations were completed for this bargaining unit in April. Negotiations for the Licensed Practical Nurses was completed in January. The Public Health Physicians bargaining unit consists of physicians at the Department of Health. Their CBA expired in 2010

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and has been on a day-to-day basis since then. We are tentatively scheduled to begin negotiations in July. This completes my testimony, and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.