Unions in Healthcare

- Union representation has served those in industries like manufacturing, package delivery, etc. very well since the 1935 passage of the National Labor Relations Act.
- Over time many employers have voluntarily treated employees well, as we have seen a decline of union representation in the United States from a peak of 35% last century, to an all-time low of 6% today in the private sector.
- While union representation still serves some industries and some employers well, we do not believe healthcare is one of those industries. One of our primary concerns is the risk of a strike and its impact on patient care.
- A healthcare strike is not solely a labor relations matter; it is a community issue with potential ripple effects on patient access, service availability, and overall public well-being.
- A union's primary bargaining leverage comes from a strike. While customers of a manufacturing strike may see significant delays or other impact to their businesses, a strike in healthcare is very different.
- Patient care cannot be paused. Urgent needs continue, therapies must proceed, and individuals managing chronic or life-threatening conditions still require daily clinical support. Healthcare organizations are responsible not only for operations, but for safeguarding human life and community health at all times.
- **Currently, the Teamsters are leading a healthcare strike that has 750 nurses on the picket line that is now entering its ninth month. And the union is about to pull another group of 9,600 nurses out onto the picket line in separate negotiations.**

Conclusion

- River Hills remains committed to constructive dialogue directly with our staff that support both the workforce and the patients who depend on them every day.
- We are quite confident that Teamsters Local 90 does not bring any expertise to the challenges or needs of this organization or the delivery of healthcare in southeast Iowa.