

Submitter: Catie Theisen
On Behalf Of: Oregon RN with no-rehire settlement
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB3471

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa and members of the House committee of Business and Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story on my workers' compensation agreement which included a no-rehire provision. I am a Registered Nurse in Oregon and I was injured on the job several years ago while trying to safely take care of a patient. My injury was due to an equipment malfunction and my attempt to shield a patient from harm.

After the injury occurred, I began the workers' compensation claim process, which lasted for almost one year. I had to pay out of pocket for a surgery while waiting for my claim to be approved. I had to use my savings to support myself and my children while I recovered from surgery.

When I was finally offered a settlement for my injury (and the expenses incurred), I was told that the settlement would include a no-rehire agreement. For me this meant that I would have to give up working at my local hospital if I wanted fair compensation. As a parent, I had to do what was best for me and my family in that moment, not fully understanding the far-reaching consequences.

I would like to share more in-depth details of my story, and be there to tell it, but part of my settlement included a confidentiality agreement so I must remain anonymous.

Because of the no re-hire agreement, I had to walk away from an employer who I loyally served for many years, and look for work outside of my community. I have had to travel long distances to work at other hospitals and I have had to spend many days away from my family in order to do so.

I support HB 3471 because no injured worker should have to give up fair compensation in order to keep their jobs. Thank you for allowing me to share my story.