

Submitter: Matt Bailey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

Transparency in healthcare spending is critical to ensuring that hospitals prioritize patient care over costly, reactionary spending during labor disputes. When healthcare workers, including nurses, are forced into labor actions due to unsafe conditions or unfair labor practices, hospitals often claim that meeting workers' demands would be too expensive. However, we know that many hospitals willingly spend millions of dollars on strike-breaking efforts, including hiring expensive out-of-state replacement workers, security measures, legal fees, and other costly tactics—all while refusing to invest in fair wages, adequate staffing, and safer working conditions for permanent employees.

As a nurse, I have seen firsthand how hospitals justify chronic understaffing by citing financial constraints. Yet, when a strike occurs, those same institutions suddenly have vast resources to pay temporary staff at significantly higher rates than what they would have spent retaining their own experienced workforce. The public—and healthcare workers—deserve to know how much money is being allocated toward these efforts rather than toward the long-term solutions that would prevent labor disputes in the first place.

Requiring hospitals to disclose these expenditures would increase accountability and provide lawmakers, patients, and the public with a clear picture of how healthcare dollars are being spent. If hospitals can afford to pay temporary workers exorbitant rates during a strike, they can afford to invest in fair wages, reasonable staffing ratios, and safe working conditions that would prevent strikes from happening at all.

Furthermore, transparency in hospital spending is in the best interest of patients. When hospitals divert funds away from permanent staff and patient care to cover unnecessary strike-related expenses, it impacts the quality and continuity of care. Patients deserve to know whether their hospitals are prioritizing patient safety or spending millions to suppress worker advocacy.

This bill is not about taking sides in labor disputes—it is about ensuring financial transparency in a sector that directly affects public health and safety. I urge you to support this bill so that healthcare institutions are held accountable for their financial decisions and so that workers and the public have access to the information they need to advocate for a stronger, safer healthcare system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.