

Submitter: Akeshia Rintalan RN
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

RE: Support for HB 2792

To the House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards,

The amount of money hospitals spend on replacement workers during a strike is absolutely outrageous and unacceptable. When a hospital is consciously unwilling to bargain in good faith and rectify a contract when they are given a strike notice, does nothing but harm the community, and hurt its employees.

My employer told us that what we are asking for is financially unsustainable, but then spent millions of dollars that could have been spent on a settling a fair contract, and in turn, supporting its community by keeping their own nurses at the bedside. Those who consistently know and care for their own.

It's deceptive, misleading and financially irresponsible.

Healthcare workers go on strike in service of the populations we serve and in concern for the quality of this Oregon healthcare system on which we all rely. Strikes are chosen only when necessary.

When a strike occurs, hospital systems tend to blame the workers for straining hospital operations, workforce morale, and transparency. Hospitals often spend significant resources to manage strikes and lockouts, yet these expenditures are not often reported, leaving the financial and ethical implications of hospital spending veiled from staff nurses and other workers. This lack of accountability undermines trust between hospitals, employees, and the public.

HB 2792 hold hospitals accountable. Especially "not for profit" hospitals.

This policy contributes to hospitals having to answer for their impact on their workers, the public, and their own bottom line.

Oregonians deserve to know how their money is spent. Period.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Akeshia Rintalan RN