

Submitter: Leah Carr 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,

I have been working for Providence for 5 years. While working on a medical surgical unit and inpatient Dialysis I have directly seen and experienced the consequences resulting from Providence's ways of running things. What people who aren't nurses should know is-- everything is connected. Strikes are not good for the nurses or the patients, so we must do everything in our power to pressure the hospitals to actually bargain in good faith. Each little thing in our contracts affects staffing/turnover and even unit culture over time-- this includes not only pay, but benefits and PTO as well. When nurses inevitably quit to go to other hospitals with better pay and benefits there is less staff left behind-- the patients suffer. The patient's families suffer. I hate that feeling of being powerless. Of wanting to help a patient but literally not having enough time to do what needs to be done, not only to keep them alive but to keep them decently healthy. These people don't deserve to be sitting in their poop and urine for literal HOURS because there is no staff who can get to them in time. They don't deserve their medications hours late because other fires had to be put out first. Sometimes we prioritize things "right" or to the best possible ability there's still a terrible tradeoff that must have been made. Maybe someone couldn't run to a bed alarm in time and someone's grandma falls, leading to a long, complicated and painful decline to death.

As a nurse who cares so deeply, it disgusts me and puts me into a state of distress when the decision makers at Providence choose to "cut off their nose to spite the face". There is no way to wrap my head around why Providence would pay so much money to the scab replacement nurses while we all go on strike. It's unethical, and this situation is a lose-lose for everyone. It's not even about the numbers-- which is frankly the only thing the CEO and the CFO seem to see. I wish some of the executives showed that they actually care and understand that this isn't a game other than the lip service and comments to the news and media. Sometimes it feels like they aren't understanding that the people involved are real people-- our patients lives are at stake here-- this isn't a game. We as healthcare workers see each of our patients lives intimately-- up close and personal. And we really care.

Simply put, I believe this bill would be a step in the right direction-- this is greater than

just us-- it's about freedom, equity, and justice.

I have written this testimony because I have hope for a better world, where the public can hold people in power accountable in being transparent.

We will be looking to you, watching and trusting your next actions will show your commitment to all of us, your constituents. Thank you.

Leah Carr RN