

Submitter: Patrick Rourke 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,

As a resident of Oregon, a member of the Oregon Nurses Association, and a Registered Nurse currently on strike within the Providence Health and Services system, I find it troubling that hospitals and large health systems are able to spend exorbitant amounts of money during a strike to hire and attract replacement workers without its workers or the public being made aware of the total spending that occurs during the strike. Health systems should be obligated to report total spending on workforce replacement during a strike. Requiring health systems to report total spending during a strike, I believe, would place justifiable pressure on the decision makers within the health system by leveraging public opinion. If Providence Health and Services had to release its spending reports to the public and its workforce, it might have the potential to prevent future strikes and disruption to the functioning of the health system. Health systems and hospitals, spending unreasonably large sums of money for a replacement workforce during a strike, should instead focus on reinvesting this money into their workforce and infrastructure.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Patrick Rourke RN