

Submitter: Vivian LaMere
On Behalf Of: nurses
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

I urge the passing of HB2792. It is of paramount importance that hospitals are mandated to be transparent and disclose the amount of money and resources they spend recruiting and paying for replacement workers during a strike. The community deserves and has the right to be aware of the money being spent to keep workers from having a fair contract and the community from having the quality of care that they need and deserve. They deserve to see the exorbitant amount of money that is being spent on replacement workers who are only working for the money and are not invested in our community. Money that could be spent more judiciously by settling fair contracts with their workers, leading to fair wages, adequate staffing, safer working conditions and better care for those in the community who we care for. The community deserves to know if the hospital systems are prioritizing profits over patients and workers.

When a strike occurs, as is now going on at all Oregon Providence hospitals, we are told what we are asking for are unreasonable and unsustainable. They are unwilling to invest in the community and the nurses that take care of the community. Yet, the hospital system willingly spends undisclosed amounts of money on replacement workers and all the related costs that go along with their workers being on strike.

I urge the passing of this bill to make healthcare systems accountable for financial decisions they make in an attempt to keep workers compliant.