

Submitter: Ally Reif 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 would like to submit my full support of House Bill 2792, which would require hospitals to disclose the cost of recruiting, hiring on, and maintaining strike breaking travelers.

As a nurse on strike currently (going on 30 days), it has been both heartbreaking and frustrating to see the lengths to which my beloved hospital will go just to avoid a contract that we, the nurses, deserve. One of the most painful experiences in this fight has been some of the public misunderstanding of why we are striking and how easy it is for our employer to keep us out of work in order to prove their broader point.

It is rumored that they are spending millions of dollars a week, far more money than it would take to have ratified our desired contract, on strike breakers from across the country. We deserve to know just how much that is. A window into these financials may actually hold Providence accountable for their decisions. If paying their hard working and dedicated nursing staff retroactively for the wages missed out on during a dragged out contract negotiation is truly financially unsustainable, what number of millions per week are they currently sustaining and how can they explain the difference?

Providence is hurting their workforce and the Oregon community by prolonging this strike, and I fear they won't be the last to do this. House Bill 2792 would put us a step closer to the transparency we so deserve as workers demanding better out of our system.

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

Ally Reif RN