

Submitter: Oregon Nurse  
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 worked for providence for over 30 years. In that time I have seen the change from when the nuns ran it to corporate running it and it being for profit verses taking care of our community. We have never gone on strike until last year. They continue to rather have us strike verses attempting to settle with us. Always refusing to negotiate and prevent a strike. It seems they would rather waste money on a strike than put that money towards a settlement. We need to have safe staffing laws and providence will say we are heroes in one breath and then turn around and not protect in the next. Hero's to zero. They tell us we are just replaceable. If there isn't transparency they will continue to not settle before expiration dates and force us to strike, which not only hurts us, but also our community.

An example of why we need this happened after COVID. One night on my unit we were extremely busy with laboring women. They just kept coming in and it was not safe staffing. We put ourselves on closed to admission (divert). I myself had 3 labors and one was very sick with high blood pressure and I was pushing meds to bring it down. That should always be one to one. Acuity matters! We found out later on in the night that our administration has opened us back up saying we needed to care for our community. They bought us pizza they sent to the unit because they knew we wouldn't get lunches. Where were they? I never saw them come into help. These people sit in their offices and make decisions off a spreadsheet not knowing at what cost it is to us and our patients.

We must stand up and fight for ourselves and our patients!

If we know how much they are spending on replacing us then we know what they can put towards a fair contract. Then would retain staff verses us training people to leave 6 months later to make more money somewhere else with better health insurance.

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