

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,

Today, I was told by a non-Providence nurse, that they see the 'replacement' workers being picked up in the morning from a Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland transport them to their work. I don't know if this is accurate, but was this nurse's observation. If this is true, it is pure fraud and let me explain why.

Medicare and Medicaid account for over half of hospital inpatient days at 98% of Oregon hospitals. While these rates are fixed and non-negotiable and hospitals claim that these services are provided at a net loss, they none the less are critical for the sustainability of hospitals. Why else would hospitals put so much effort and resources into meeting the standards set forth by CMS?

(<https://www.ashrm.org/system/files/media/file/2022/05/fact-sheet-majority-hospital-payments-dependent-on-medicare-or-medicaid-congress-continues-to-cut-hospital-reimbursements-for-medicare.pdf>. These statistics are provided by the American Hospital Association which serves the interest of hospitals, by the way.)

Medicare and Medicaid plans are funded through tax paid by the working-middle class. Tax payers are the ones who keep hospitals open. If only DOGE could understand this and bring accountability to 'health care' organization which siphon off the financial resource which are meant for the poor, sick and elderly! These organization are the first ones which should be investigated and made transparent.

When a company pays multiples over market value for often inexperienced staff (generally all inexperienced to the units they are working on) to replace staff attempting to negotiate fair market contracts, as Providence clearly is doing, this is misappropriation of the public funds in addition to being dangerous practice for patients.

As a nurse, I am satisfied with the salary that I am being offered. The current strike is not about money, and I believe, could be ended without costing Providence more than what they are already offering. However, it seems they would rather go bankrupt instead of taking the necessary steps to ensure a sustainable workforce today and when future contracts are negotiated. As nurses, we are well positioned to deliver

efficient and effective care and reduce waste and redundancy in healthcare. Our expertise, which is not billable on an insurance claim, delivers cost-savings and value to patients, the community and society at large.

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

Oregon Nurse