

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,

It is quite disconcerting that hospitals frequently allocate substantial funds towards replacement workforces, resources which could be more effectively utilized in establishing fair contracts for staff nurses. Despite having such funds available, they choose profit over their loyal employees and come onto news media and lie to the public that raising better standards for the workers is "unsustainable".

It is imperative that we comprehend the extent to which hospital employers avoid investing in fair contracts. Healthcare workers, including ourselves, engage in strikes not out of desire, but out of necessity—when employers fail to prioritize safety, the voices of workers, and crucial concerns for the sustainability of healthcare, such as recruitment and retention. Strikes are a last resort, chosen only when absolutely necessary.

Regrettably, when strikes occur, hospital systems often attribute the blame to workers, accusing them of straining hospital operations, workforce morale, and transparency. Hospitals frequently expend significant resources managing strikes and lockouts, yet these expenditures remain largely unreported.

This is where HB 2792 becomes relevant and will ensure that hospitals are held accountable for their impact on their workers, the public, and their own financial health.

Oregonians have the right to be informed about how their money is being spent, especially if it is being misallocated. Our hospitals and health systems are community resources that rely on our tax dollars and tax exemptions. As these systems expand and healthcare costs rise, our community requires more information to perform our oversight responsibilities effectively and ensure that the benefits provided by today's healthcare systems outweigh the costs they impose.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points. I firmly believe that transparency and accountability in healthcare spending are essential for maintaining trust and ensuring the sustainability of our healthcare system.

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