

Submitter: Nora Heard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

02/10/2025

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2792

To the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

I am a registered nurse in Portland, Oregon. I graduated from nursing school in Portland, Oregon, and despite constant claims that there is a nursing shortage, it was impossible for my classmates and I to get a foot in the door with any hospital system. They pay twice as much to hire out of state travel nurses rather than invest in training new graduates and new to specialty nurses here in Oregon. This might make them richer, but how does it serve the citizens of Oregon. It means that Oregon nurses end up in the lowest paying, most poorly staffed positions and burn out in 6 months or never work in the field at all. All that money that could be kept in Oregon and spent in Oregon, instead drains away to Missouri or Utah or somewhere.

I have seen the agency adds for weeks, and I know what they mean. Providence and Kaiser are hiring scabs at outrageous hourly rates. Instead of hiring local nurses and treating them well, since they are the heart, hands, and eyes of healthcare, they are pouring millions of dollars down the drain to AVOID treating us like valuable assets to our cities and state. There is no nursing shortage. There is a shortage of respect and a shortage of administrators who understand our value.

I support this measure because, at the very least, Providence should have to show their whole ass and not pretend that's not what they're doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support,  
Nora Heard BSN, RN