



Feb. 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically via OLIS

RE: HB 2792, relating to the amount a hospital spends for individuals to replace employees during a labor dispute

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee:

The Hospital Association of Oregon is a mission-driven nonprofit association representing Oregon's 61 community hospitals.

The hospital association is opposed to HB 2792, a bill that requires a hospital to report the amount it spends to recruit, solicit, advertise and pay for individuals to replace employees involved in a strike or lockout.

Requiring hospitals to report detailed information on the costs of strikes diverts time and attention away from the critical work of maintaining and protecting the community's access to care when workers are out on strike. We don't need this bill to know that strikes are expensive, and we don't need to add more unfunded mandates for hospitals and the hardworking employees who must do the work to comply with them. We are at a crossroads. Hospitals' expenses are rising far faster than what they are paid to provide care. To keep hospital doors open and avoid layoffs, we should be getting rid of laws that do not benefit patients, not passing new ones.

Strikes are a way for workers to gain leverage in the collective bargaining process. When health care workers strike, hospitals must find a way to stay open and staffed. Often this means that hospitals must recruit a temporary workforce so that when community members need care, someone will be there to deliver it. The health care professionals who work with agencies and provide care to Oregonians while other workers are striking play a vital role in delivering that care. Without temporary workers, Oregon would face a significant crisis when workers exercise their rights to strike.



For hospitals, patient care is paramount. When workers choose to strike, hospitals must stay open, or people in the community will suffer. For this reason, this bill is harmful, diverting valuable resources away from what we all should be focusing on—patient care.

For these reasons, we ask you to vote no on HB 2792.

Sincerely,



Sean Kolmer
Executive Vice President of External Affairs
Hospital Association of Oregon

About the Hospital Association of Oregon

Founded in 1934, the Hospital Association of Oregon (HAO) is a mission-driven, nonprofit trade association representing Oregon's 61 hospitals. Together, hospitals are the sixth largest private employer statewide, employing more than 70,000 employees. Committed to fostering a stronger, safer, more equitable Oregon where all people have access to the high-quality care they need, the hospital association supports Oregon's hospitals so they can support their communities; educates government officials and the public on the state's health landscape, and works collaboratively with policymakers, community based organizations and the health care community to build consensus on and advance health care policy benefiting the state's four million residents.



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