

Submitter: Andy Matarrese
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

Attention House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards,
We are in a current situation where a large Health Care System is claiming they cannot "afford" to meet or even compromise on the economic asks of nursing unions, while simultaneously spending MORE than the nurses are asking for on hiring strike-breaking nurses. The hospital system places ads in the media, blaming nurses for work stoppages and claiming nurses are unwilling to negotiate, when behind closed doors the opposite is true and it is the hospital system that has refused to make any meaningful movement in negotiations. The billion-dollar company is exerting money and power to silence nurses in our demand for better working conditions for ourselves and better care conditions for our patients. This "not-for-profit" hospital system is not being transparent with how much money they are spending to prevent coming to a fair contract with their nurses. The public deserves to know. We cannot continue to allow the large corporation to control the narrative if they are going to lie. The economics do not make sense. They are willing to spend exorbitant amounts of money (income that is supported by our taxes and tax exemptions) to pay for strike-breaking nurses from other states to come work at their hospital. Meanwhile they refuse to pay the nurses in their own community fairly. The rich are getting richer and no one is standing up for the working class.

I urge you, please, to pass HB 2792--in doing so you are showing that you are willing to stand up for transparency and the rights of the workers of your state. We do not want to be on strike. We want to work, but we want to work for an employer who shows us respect and listens to our concerns. Pretending they care in the media (we were "healthcare heroes" remember?) is not nearly enough. They are showing us how little they actually respect, value, and care for the nurses who are the backbone of the medical system. Hold them accountable for their lies.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Andy Matarrese