

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

To whom it may concern:

As an employee at a currently striking hospital, nurse, Oregonian, recent patient, friend, daughter, granddaughter, mother, and more; I am in support of House Bill 2792. Oregonians deserve to know how their money is spent—especially if it's being misspent. Our hospitals and health systems are community resources which rely on our tax dollars and tax exemptions. As our health systems expand and Oregonians' healthcare becomes more expensive, our community needs more information to perform our oversight responsibilities and ensure the benefits today's healthcare systems provide outweigh the bills they charge. Healthcare workers go on strike in service of the populations we serve and in concern for the quality of this Oregon healthcare system on which we all rely. Strikes are chosen only when necessary when the employer absolutely refuses to prioritize safety, workers' voice, and core concerns for healthcare sustainability like recruitment and retention. The day before the strike, I had a patient that was obtunded and unresponsive and I was with that patient for several hours straight. That left my other patients to be cared for by other nurses on the floor. Because I have a great team of nurses and CNAs, my patients were okay. However, because the other nurses have patients of their own, my remaining patients did not get the same level of care and attention that I would have been able to provide. Providence has claimed time and time again that they are unable to financially sustain what the nurses apart of ONA are demanding, yet they are able to spend an unknown amount of money on strike staff. Money, funds, and resources that could be used to settle a fair contract with their staff. It is outrageous that in Oregon hospitals and health systems spend extravagantly on replacement workforces, with money that could be spent on a fair contract for staff nurses. We should know the extent of hospital employer avoidance of spending productively towards a fair contract. HB 2792 shines a light where bad-actor hospital employers prefer to operate in the dark. The bill requires financial reports that include recruitment, advertising, and compensation costs, and must be updated every 30 days during a strike and finalized within 30 days of a strike ending. This policy contributes to hospitals having to answer for their impact on their workers, the public, and their own bottom line.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
McKenzie Davis