

To: Chair Dacia Grayber and Members of the
Oregon House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Hannah Winchester,
Co-Chair – Political Education and Action Committee, OFNHP

Date: February 10, 2025

Re: **Support for House Bill 2972**

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

As the Co-Chair for the Political Education and Action Committee (PEAC) for the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP), AFT Local 5017, I am writing in **support of House Bill 2972** and thank Representative Travis Nelson for bringing this legislation forward.

The PEAC consists of OFNHP members and makes political recommendations to the broader membership. OFNHP is made up of almost 7,000 nurses and health professionals in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members are employed by Kaiser, Legacy, Adventist, Bend St. Charles, and the PeaceHealth system and include medical technologists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, physical therapists, laboratory professionals, opticians, registered nurses, just to name a few. All positions and that are critical to overall patient care and outcomes, and all work tirelessly to provide the best care possible.

We know when health professionals strike, they are not doing so lightly. It is a sign that something in the system is broken and workers' needs are not being met. This not only inhibits their own wellbeing, but more importantly, their ability to fulfill the task of caring for their patients. Simply put: when we take care of providers, we take care of patients.

When hospitals choose to hire replacement staff during a strike or lockout it demonstrates that there is, in fact, the necessary time and funds to recruit and advertise for positions, not to mention the often-exorbitant pay those substitute providers are given. In the meantime, those who are striking or who have been locked out, who have built relationships and rapport with their patients and colleagues, are told what they are asking for in their contract is "too much" or "unsustainable". It is difficult to believe both of these to be true simultaneously, and if it is, hospitals should be required to show the receipts.

An unwillingness to be transparent about this spending speaks volumes. It undercuts the good work their employees have dedicated their lives to, who simply want fair treatment. It prevents taxpayers from understanding where and how the money contributed towards government-subsidized healthcare is being utilized. Hospitals should report on this spending, and **the committee should pass House Bill 2972**.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony,

Hannah Winchester

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Hannah Winchester, DPT". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark at the end that looks like "DPT".

Dr. Hannah Winchester, DPT