

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

Randi Nielsen

February 10th, 2025

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2792

To: Chairperson and House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2792, which would require hospitals to report on the amount they spend on recruiting and compensating individuals to replace striking workers during a strike or lockout. As a nurse practitioner, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and impacts that labor disputes can have on both healthcare workers and the patients they care for.

Having worked in the healthcare sector, I understand the complex dynamics between hospitals and their staff, but I also believe that transparency is essential in fostering trust and accountability. Knowing how funds are allocated during strikes could encourage hospitals to address the underlying causes of labor disputes more directly, rather than resorting to costly temporary measures. Moreover, when hospitals are compelled to report these expenditures, it fosters trust in our healthcare institutions and reassures the public that their tax dollars and insurance premiums are being used effectively and ethically.

As our healthcare system faces an ongoing challenge of retaining and fairly compensating skilled workers, it is crucial that we, as a community, understand the financial choices hospitals make in the context of strikes and lockouts. Hospitals are vital public resources, and the funds they spend should be utilized in a way that serves the best interests of patients, healthcare workers, and taxpayers. By requiring hospitals to disclose the costs of hiring replacement workers, we can have a clearer picture of the financial priorities in times of labor unrest.

I believe House Bill 2792 is crucial for ensuring that healthcare institutions use resources in a manner that prioritizes the well-being of patients and staff. By shedding light on how much is spent on replacing striking workers, this bill will help us all make more informed decisions and encourage more responsible stewardship of the funds that support our healthcare system.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I strongly urge the committee to support this important legislation, for the benefit of workers, patients, and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Randi Nielsen, PMHNP, FNP