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

I am a nurse of over 20 years. I am writing in support of sun 2792.

I am currently on day 32 of a historic open ended strike with Providence. My first and hopefully last strike in my career. To be clear, we have all been unpaid during this strike. We are striking not only for ourselves, but for the future betterment of health care in our community. Withholding our labor unfortunately is what it took for Providence to begin bargaining in good faith. Providence presents itself a non profit entity, yet our CEO and other upper management make multiple millions a year, while simultaneously declaring to be "in the red".

And they publicly state our demands are too high, that we are greedy - when we are consistently the lowest paid hospital nurses in the metro area. With the worst benefit packages. Look at our contracts. They lie about how much the average nurse makes- \$150,000 a year! I have never once made that much, working full time 40 hours a week, with call shifts , callback overtime, precepting new staff and students, charge nurse pay and additional certification pay. Provide lies about how much we make to the public- but our contracts are public - if ANYONE wants to see how much I get paid - just look to the contract , it's posted online for all to see. So about some transparency on their end? Federal and state dollars, tax payer dollars, support hospitals. If the public knew how much hospitals paid OUT OF STATE strike breakers to sweat us out to move contract negotiations in their favor the tax paying public would be appalled. The money they have spent on one month of this strike could have more than paid for what us striking nurses have asked for in our 2 year contract negotiations.

What's the point of this bill some may ask? Transparency and accountability for tax payer money being used as a chip in a rigged game of poker. And all chip money is leaving the state with the strike breaking nurses when they go back to their home states with their pockets full.

What's the point some may ask. Why bother? I simply respond with why not? It will not cost the hospitals anything but the truth. The numbers are already there, just let the tax payers see them. If they are bargaining in good faith they should have nothing to hide.