

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

My name is Lori Patten and I am an RN with Providence

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To the House committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

I am here today to express my strong support for the proposed bill aimed at increasing hospital transparency and holding employers accountable when they push healthcare workers to strike rather than offering fair contracts. This legislation is not only crucial for the wellbeing of our dedicated healthcare professionals but also for the integrity and sustainability of our healthcare system.

The Need for Transparency

Hospitals and healthcare institutions are pillars of our society, providing essential services to our communities. However, the lack of transparency in their operations, particularly regarding financial decisions and employment practices, has led to growing concerns. Transparency in hospital management is fundamental to ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and ethically. It allows for greater public scrutiny and helps prevent the mismanagement of funds that could otherwise be used to improve patient care and support healthcare workers.

Impact on Healthcare Workers

Healthcare workers are the backbone of our medical system. Their dedication, skill, and compassion are what keep our hospitals running smoothly. Unfortunately, too often, they are subjected to unfair labor practices, including being pushed to strike as a last resort to secure fair wages and working conditions. These strikes are not only disruptive to the healthcare services but also place an immense emotional and financial burden on the workers and their families.

By holding employers accountable, we can ensure that healthcare workers are treated with the respect and fairness they deserve. Employers should not be allowed to dodge their responsibilities by forcing workers into strikes. Instead, they should engage in good faith negotiations to arrive at fair contracts that reflect the vital contributions of these professionals.

Benefits to Patients and the Community

When healthcare workers are treated fairly and their concerns are addressed promptly, the overall quality of care improves. Patients benefit from a stable and motivated workforce that can focus on providing the best possible care. Additionally, transparency in hospital operations builds trust within the community, ensuring that patients feel confident in the care they receive.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed bill to increase hospital transparency and hold employers accountable is a necessary step to protect healthcare workers and ensure the integrity of our healthcare system. It is imperative that we support this legislation to foster a fair and just working environment for those who dedicate their lives to caring for others. Thank you for your consideration, and I urge you to pass this bill for the improvement of our healthcare system and the wellbeing of our healthcare workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and I look forward to your support.

Lori Patten BSN RN CPAN