

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

Hello Oregon Legislature, My name is Jason Phillips & I am a RN working in Portland. I am writing in support of Bill 2792. If passed, this bill would provide much needed transparency into strikes and could potentially shorten strikes in the future. Leading up to and during the current strike with Providence Health Systems, Providence has stated that they are unable to provide safe staffing ratios in their policy, unable to provide decent health insurance, and unable to provide competitive compensation. For all of these they state that this is for financial reasons. However, it is my understanding that they are spending 25 million dollars per week of the strike.

While this bill has been touted as a negotiation tool, I disagree. First, as an organization that receives federal funding in the form of Medicare and Medicaid, the public has a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. Second, this transparency in their spending will help the employees make better decisions about who they are willing to work for. Third, this bill would work to level the informational playing field between large hospital systems and their employees. Ending strikes quickly or before they have a chance to start benefits both the hospital and more importantly the populations that they serve.

Please vote to support this bill as it will help shape healthcare in a more citizen friendly way. If the spending they put towards paying strike relief workers is honorable, what do they have to hide? If it isn't honorable, doesn't the public have a right to know? If not the public, don't the employees have a right to know who they are supporting with their labor?

Personally, I believe that I deserve to know who I support with my time and labor. Healthcare workers give so much to their patients and their communities and deserve to do so in a safe environment while being fairly compensated and having healthcare that keeps them healthy enough to care for their patients. This bill provides information to help each worker make an informed decision about the companies they are willing to work for.

Again, I urge the support of this bill. Please vote to help care for those who work so hard to take care of you and your families.