

Submitter: Sierra Dow
On Behalf Of: Oregon Nurses Association
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2792

Sierra Dow

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RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2792

To the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

Healthcare workers go on strike in service of the populations we serve and in concern for the quality of this Oregon healthcare system on which we all rely. Strikes are chosen only when necessary when the employer absolutely refuses to prioritize safety, workers' voice, and core concerns for healthcare sustainability like recruitment and retention.

When a strike occurs, hospital systems tend to blame the workers for straining hospital operations, workforce morale, and transparency.

Hospitals often spend significant resources to manage strikes and lockouts, yet these expenditures are not often reported, leaving the financial and ethical implications of hospital spending veiled from staff nurses and other workers. This lack of accountability undermines trust between hospitals, employees, and the public.

This policy contributes to hospitals having to answer for their impact on their workers, the public, and their own bottom line.

Oregonians deserve to know how their money is spent—especially if it's being misspent. Our hospitals and health systems are community resources which rely on our tax dollars and tax exemptions. As our health systems expand and Oregonians' healthcare becomes more expensive, our community needs more information to perform our oversight responsibilities and ensure the benefits today's healthcare systems provide outweigh the bills they charge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I look forward to your support,

Sierra Dow