

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

RE: Support for HB 2792

To the House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards,

As a current ONA member on strike for 31+ days, I have some concerns with the amount of money my employer is spending on replacement nurses. I am mourning the loss of a place I once considered safe and was proud to call home for over 20 years.

It is outrageous that in Oregon hospitals and health systems spend extravagantly on replacement workforces, with money that could be spent on a fair contract for staff nurses. I feel forgotten and quite frankly, disrespected.

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.

HB 2792 shines a light where bad-actor hospital employers prefer to operate in the dark. The bill requires financial reports that include recruitment, advertising, and compensation costs, and must be updated every 30 days during a strike and finalized within 30 days of a strike ending.

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

I never want to go on strike, again! But I am a proponent of this House Bill to support my colleagues in the nursing profession who will have to hold the line in the future.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Oregon Nurse