

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

Testimony in Support of HB 2792

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards,

I have been a bedside nurse at Providence for nearly 20 years. My entire professional career has been dedicated to caring for patients at the bedside, ensuring they receive the compassion and quality care they deserve. Right now, I am on day 33 of this strike—33 days away from the patients I love, not because I want to be, but because we are fighting for the resources and conditions we need to care for them safely.

I have seen firsthand how hospital executives choose to spend money. Instead of investing in long-term solutions that keep experienced nurses at the bedside, they are pouring millions into hiring temporary workers at inflated rates—workers who don't know our patients, our hospital, or our community. This is not just frustrating; it's infuriating. It's a betrayal of the trust that patients and staff place in these institutions.

Hospitals that receive public funding must be transparent about their spending. The public deserves to know how much money is being spent on replacing dedicated, local healthcare professionals instead of addressing the root issues that push us to strike in the first place. HB 2792 is about accountability. It's about ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being used to support the people who are truly committed to this community, not to bankroll a short-term fix while ignoring long-term problems.

For nearly two decades, I have given my heart and soul to this work. I am not on strike because I want to be; I am on strike because I have no choice if I want to see real change for my patients, my colleagues, and the future of healthcare in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 2792 and stand with the healthcare workers who have dedicated their lives to serving this community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Hannah Gunderson, RN