



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

February 9, 2021

Support for HB 2362

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Michelle Hitchcock, I'm a member of SEIU 49 and I work at Providence Milwaukie Hospital as a scheduler in the diagnostic imaging department. I am here to speak in support of HB 2362.

I love providing great patient care and always knew I wanted to work in a health care environment. I have worked at Providence Milwaukie since I was 21 years old, and I come from a family of Providence employees. My grandmother and mother both worked at Providence. My family has witnessed first hand the changes that happen as decisions for community hospitals are made not by the community, but by corporate offices a world away.

I receive health insurance through my job. We are offered high-deductible plans, even though we work in healthcare and people assume that means we have great benefits.

I have a chronic medical condition and even though I use Providence doctors and facilities for my health care, it has been hard to pay for the health care my family needs. I received a bill for an MRI that was over \$800, and I couldn't pay it off within a certain time frame. Providence sent me to collections for that bill, which was obviously terrible for me and my family. Paying an unexpected \$800 bill is a burden for me, and many other working families like me. Why is healthcare so expensive? Why is something so essential so unaffordable? I just don't think this should be how it is when you work for a nonprofit hospital. This is especially frustrating because I know Providence's Oregon region alone had over \$130 million in profits in the first nine months 2020. Even with the challenges of COVID, Providence made money in Oregon.

HB 2362 will mean that the State government will be able to consider and maybe even prioritize the situations people like me are facing before big health care businesses can merge or acquire another company. Already we can't afford care. We can't see prices go up more due to greed and market power. Please support HB 2362.