

Submitter: Robert Livonius  
On Behalf Of: 2 staffing agencies operating in Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure: SB1549

SB 1549 will restrict wages for nurses in Oregon and will cause nurses and CNA's to work in other nearby states or go to work in other non-healthcare jobs. The BLS shows that we lost over 400,000 healthcare workers during the pandemic. The supply level is back to 15 years ago. There is a misconception that staffing agencies are gouging clients. The truth is that the mark up over pay rates have actually gone down as represented by the NATHO study published by the SIA. Staffing agencies are under enormous pressure by clients to fill open orders. Clients are offering significant bonuses to agency nurses to work their facility verses another facility. These rates are being driven by the client demand. As an industry, we are hopeful that the rates will come back in line when the pandemic slows but, in long term care there is a systemic shortage driven by the low wages offered, particularly to CNA's at \$12-\$15 per hour. Wages should be in the \$18-23 range to compete with Walmart, Amazon and others. The two states that put rate caps in place have failed. The facilities in those states will tell you how nearly impossible it was to get staff when the rates were too low. And now, these states have had to raise the caps or eliminate them because of the pandemic. Vote no on SBB 1549. Instead of getting orders filled for patient safety, shifts will be left uncovered and patients will be at risk. Thank you. Bob Livonius, Livonius Consulting. I am representing Favorite Nurses, GrapeTree Medical Staffing, Nomad Health, RightSourcing and as a member of the American Staffing Association Healthcare Coalition and former Chairman of ASA.