

Submitter: Rick Furlano

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1549

I have just become aware of a proposed Senate bill HR 1549 which has numerous parts including imposing a rate cap on staffing agency bill rates. This seems to be in conflict with both fair labor and wage laws as it would directly affect nurses wages as they have a direct tie to the billing rates that are charged to the end client. The cause of the rate inflation is not staffing agencies trying to gouge the hospitals but actually is due to the severe shortage of nurse' who choose to work in the hospitals. Travel nursing has become an expression of the nursing community to pick and choose their compensation packages, location and type of institution and to finally have leverage in getting fair compensation for their very critical work. We often hear that hospitals view nurses as overhead but Doctors as revenue generators and that needs to change. If nurses get paid adequately, are given fair schedules and shown appreciation and work-life balance then this can settle out. The state of Oregon would be doing a dis-service to both nurses and patients by restricting wages and ultimately pushing nurses to other states.

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