

Submitter: Christina Muniz  
On Behalf Of: All nurses in Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure: SB1549

As a RN working the front lines of the Covid pandemic, I strongly oppose the bill to cap wages for nurses. If this happens, we will see an even worse staffing crisis and there will be more patients unable to receive safe care, if any care at all. Agency nurses are the only thing supplementing our staffing right now, and without them we will be in a very bad position. The skills agency nurses possess, in addition to the flexibility and adaptability they show on a daily basis deserves the pay they receive. Additionally, agency nurses often take the heavier assignments compared to staff nurses who are often protected by union rules, preventing them from taking more than a certain number of patients. Overall, capping pay for any nurses will be detrimental to healthcare in Oregon and would negatively affect our communities in this critical time of need.