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On Behalf Of:

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Maximum rates? Sounds like price fixing to me. I am continually disturbed by executives, administrators and businesses that love the free market until it is no longer benefiting them. How about maximum rates physicians can be paid? What about maximum salaries and bonuses that medical executives can be paid? If this has no impact on your state budget, why the need to hold down these costs? Who is being hurt by paying market rates for difficult, in-demand jobs? Insurance companies? Stakeholders in the medical industrial complex?

My wife has been working as an RN in the ICU dealing with covid for two years, and is currently working on contract in Portland. She is on the threshold of quitting ICU work and moving on to something else. Do you know what is keeping her (a qualified, skilled ICU nurse) in the ICU saving lives every shift? Finally getting adequately compensated for the arduous work and holding people's hand while they die alone. Capping rates and therefore compensation for nurses in demand will not alleviate the shortage of qualified staff. The rates are what the rates are because of market forces. (and because so many people can't seem to grasp that we're all in this together and that they should follow health guidelines for themselves and their community).

Is it so bad that the working class healthcare workers are finally making some money for what they do? Why is it only okay for the already rich to make lots of money? As soon as the servant class starts to get theirs it's: "Whoa, whoa, whoa.... We have to stop this income inequality issue!!" Why do we have to continually lower the bar with regards to labor? Instead of saying: "We're paying contract nurses too much!" What needs to be said is: "Let's pay our staff nurses more, so they feel like sticking around through this mess!" Because obviously they aren't.

I guarantee that if Oregon caps contract rates and the ICU RN pay rates fall, my wife will say goodbye to Oregon's super sick patients.