

My name is Jeff Hong, I am a 1st generation Chinese-Vietnamese American nurse. I work at OHSU and as a travel nurse. During the start of the pandemic my unit was turned into the Covid unit and I've worked other Covid units in Eugene when they were short staffed.

I am against the bill you are proposing. Limiting travel nurses only serves to devalue the sacrifices and trauma that we as nurses face and to make Oregon unattractive to travelers as we continually face dangerous working conditions and unsafe staffing ratios. Travel nurses serve to provide their skills, to care for patients, and to provide reprieve to burnt out staff. By making Oregon uncompetitive compared to other states you only hurt the dedicated Oregonians working to make a difference in people's lives.

We are the ones there every day caring for Oregonians during one of the darkest, most stressful times of their lives.

We are the ones you first see when you come to the hospital, and the last ones when you leave.

We are the ones making a difference.

I implore you to look at the real costs of your bill. You are saying that there is a limit to which society values our hard work, our sacrifices, and our safety. You are saying there is a limit to how much you value our lives. Please look at what actually brings good to Oregonians, such as limiting the price of life saving medications/treatments and making healthcare accessible for all Oregonians.

The money travel nurses earn is used for everyday expenses and the debts associated with becoming a nurse. It isn't used to buy another beach home, Porsche, or yacht like the uncapped earnings of executives. The money I earned working 5 days a week, 12 hours a day, putting my own life on the line during a pandemic isn't being spent frivolously. It's being spent to pay off the crushing student debt of nursing school and to prepare for the cost of furthering my career in healthcare.

You called us heroes, so why are your actions saying the opposite?

Thank you for your time,
Jeff Hong
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