

Submitter: Benjamin Spinney  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure: SB1549

Dear Oregon Legislature,

My wife and I are healthcare professionals; my wife is a nurse in the state of Oregon and like so many medical workers, has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic since the start. I am writing in regards to SB1549 and I have many concerns over this bill. My biggest concern being your inhuman decision to attempt to cap a nurses salary. May I ask what you have been doing during this pandemic? Were you the lucky ones that was able to work from home, and stay away from this terrible illness? Because myself, my wife, and millions of other healthcare workers were not so lucky. If you want to cap their salary as a way of saving money, why don't you look at how much a hospital CEO makes? They too had the luxury of sitting at home, away from all those sick people. A hospital CEO makes millions of dollars every year, and they've only become richer since the start of COVID. How about you consider taking money from their salary? Or better yet, how about yours? Capping nurses salary's would not only hurt current nurses, but future ones as well. Why would someone want endure the stress and difficult class loads of nursing school to enter a field where their salary will be capped? Hospitals would not need travel nurses if they offered fair pay to their staff and treated them well. Medical workers have been leaving the field in record breaking numbers. People are leaving to travel because they can get paid what they are worth and skip the mistreatment of administration. Consider changing the way nurses are treated and push them to get paid what they deserve.