

Submitter: Brieona Whitaker  
On Behalf Of: Registered Nurses  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure: SB1549

As a RN, who has worked tirelessly over the past two years taking care of an alarming amount of critically ill patients, I urge legislators to not cap our salaries. I have not only sacrificed my health, but risked my family's health while taking care of patients during the Covid 19 pandemic. I have worked short staffed, without hazard pay, risking my nursing license by taking on unsafe patient loads. The government and public have decided nurses are disposable, limiting our PPE, being asked to work while symptomatic with Covid. Taking away workers compensation if we contract Covid. This is unacceptable and frankly unethical. It is ok for the CEOs of healthcare system to take 6 figure bonuses while they have not left the safety of their home offices but to cap the heroes who are actually saving lives? Unacceptable. Nurses are not paid enough for the work they are currently doing. The staffing shortage will increase greatly if our salaries are capped. Be prepared for the great resignation, we deserve higher wages! People will be dying in ER waiting rooms because there will not be enough nurses. This job is not worth doing at our current rate. Don't make this public health disaster worse.