

Submitter: Jessica Knuth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

Hello, my name is Jessica and I work as a travel nurse. I have been working as a nurse since just before the pandemic. Prior to the COVID-19 staffing crises, I loved working as a nurse. And to be honest it has been difficult to convince myself to stay in the profession at times. Working short contracts for crisis pay allows me to take time off between contracts to manage the tole that my job takes on my mental health. From short staffing to morally distressing issues like not allowing families to visit their loved ones, I am exhausted. Sometimes I leave work in tears because we were so short staffed that I could not provide the excellent care to my patients that I know they so strongly need and deserve. The only light at the end of the tunnel is when travel nurses can be brought in to lighten the load.

Pay caps will reduce the ability of hospitals to compensate nurses for crisis pay. I beg you not to pass this bill. I fear if you do, I may not be able to justify staying in the nursing field when we have another pandemic. And I believe you will have a systemic fall-out if you pass this bill.