

Submitter: MacKenzie Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

As someone that works hand in hand with agency healthcare staff as well as facilities that utilize agency staff, I believe that it's imperative to oppose this bill. Having a cap on wages that agency employees are entailed to will not only force agency staff to look for opportunities elsewhere, it will cause an even greater shortage of staff in the healthcare field in general. Agency staff are a critical addition to so many long term care facilities, hospitals, and clinics all around Oregon, that I have heard from time and time again appreciation from for the agency staff we provide for them so that they can continue to provide quality care to the residents and patients that they see in increasing volume.

Staff that choose to work agency should not be penalized for the misappropriation of funds leading these facilities to need to rely on agency staff in the first place. If Healthcare workers were forced to work for less than what their job demands them being paid, they would leave the industry completely, which will only increase the need for alternative avenues to be utilized to ensure that these facilities have the number of personnel to operate legally.

It is my opinion that agency staff should not have caps on the wages that they're able to earn. Facilities enter into agreements with agency knowing how much they are going to have to pay to utilize agency staff, and they do so willingly and with a lot of appreciation for the assistance agency staff are able to provide to them when their own pool of employees deems it necessary to use agency staff in the first place.

I appreciate the time taken to review this testimony and hope that it serves the purpose of inclining you to vote to oppose this bill and continue paying the healthcare workers we employ a living wage so that we're able to continue the work we strive so hard to do every day which is to care for those that need it most and do the work that so few others will.