

Submitter: Shel Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

I attended the March 15 hearing on HB 2665. I would like the members of the Oregon house to consider the following before they vote.

One of the statements I heard in support of this bill was that the state of Minnesota had enacted a similar bill and they still had over 300 staffing agencies operating in Minnesota. But, what they failed to say was that those agencies have significantly reduced the number of employees they are able to provide within the state of Minnesota. Many of those agencies have gone from having 100% of their resources deployed within the state to having less than 20% of their resources deployed within the state. Nurses have insisted on being placed in facilities in neighboring states where they can negotiate a more favorable rate. Today, facilities in Minnesota has found themselves struggling with staffing shortages more than ever.

Another statement I heard in support of this bill was an example of how an agency charged over \$300k in penalties and interest on a \$47k bill. This is most certainly an extreme and ludicrous example designed to make the voting members of our legislature feel like "something must be done"! It in now way reflects the vast majority of staffing agencies, like the one you heard from at the hearing, who have never charged interest and penalties. This is clearly an approach the supports punishing the many good agencies for the acts of the very few bad agencies.

There are reasons that only 2 out of the 26 states that have considered a bill like this have adopted Rate Caps. Please consider these facts. It drives medical personnel to work in other states. It drives staffing agencies to focus their efforts on buildings their business in other states. It reduces access to local available medical staff, forcing facilities to hire travelers at an even greater expense than any other type of staff. So, please ask yourself, who benefits from a measure like this? Not local business'. Not medical personnel. And, certainly not the patients and residents that rely on medical services in Oregon.

This decision should not be about politics or party lines. It should be about what is best for the citizens of Oregon.

Please vote no on HB 2665.