

Submitter: Ashley Chuinard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

I oppose this bill as it negatively impacts our already overwhelmed nurses and caregivers. They have gone above and beyond in the past few years, with their work being physically and emotionally difficult. They deserve to be paid fairly for their education, experience, and for the type of work they do.

This bill would allow facilities to ignore the need for hazard pay, differentials for time and travel and any difference in experience or training. Nurses are overworked, and resources only dwindle as time goes on.

Additionally, this could negatively impact patient care, especially for those with the highest needs. A standard pay rate without compensation for specialized work will inevitably lead to shortages and a smaller candidate field.

I urge the committee to reconsider this bill, both for the talented professionals who provide care, and for the most vulnerable patients who will be adversely impacted.