

Submitter: Juliet Tate

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1549

As an employer of over 600 healthcare employees in Oregon and a provider to over 350 healthcare facilities I am compelled to provide testimony over SB1549. Not only does this bill conflict with labor and wage laws, but it will absolutely devastate the healthcare workforce and the patients who need medical care in Oregon. We are in the middle of a healthcare staffing crisis. It will be impossible to attract healthcare workers with rates that are mandated and dictated by the state- who does not have any direct knowledge of the actual costs it takes to put a healthcare worker on assignment. Putting rate caps on companies that are providing critical employment and essential resources into recruiting staff from other parts of the US would do a disservice to the state. Oregon will be less attractive for healthcare workers and in addition to the over 400,000 healthcare workers who were lost during the pandemic we will continue to lose many more of these critical workers in our own state. You will drive workers out of their profession and into companies where they can make more, especially CNA's and Caregivers who can work retail and make more than as a healthcare worker. There is a belief that staffing firms are gouging clients however please note that incentives and bonuses we are passing through to our healthcare workers are being offered directly from clients. Staffing agencies are not making any money on this. Staffing firm's margins have been compressed over the last three years with additional taxes, paid sick leave, and hiring requirements in place. The increased cost to do business in healthcare, and especially in Oregon have reduced margins over the past several years. Overall, we believe rates will stabilize soon, however it is not the states place to dictate rates that companies can charge for services. The bottom line is patient care will suffer. Patients in our own communities will not get the healthcare they need if there are no healthcare workers. Patients will be turned away for services if there are no healthcare workers. Your family members will not get medical care if there are no healthcare workers. We cannot recruit for the critical needs of our clients from other states and bring more nurses into Oregon if we are capped on rates.

Juliet Tate, Owner

Express Healthcare Professionals