

I wish I had more time to compose this testimony. I currently work the night shift as an ICU traveler here in Oregon. I don't have children or own my own home and I take the standard deduction. I contribute greatly to the state of Oregon in my taxes which are far higher than many states. I also contribute greatly to the local and rural economies where I choose to work. I offset some of those taxes with assignments that pay better so I can still contribute my share.

The healthcare crisis didn't come from nowhere. When I was in nursing school 9 years ago, it was known that we had a worsening crisis of lack of nurses with no viable solutions as an entire nation. Here we are almost a decade later and it's staring us in the face, no one knows that better than us. As a traveler I will go elsewhere and so will my tax revenue.

Our stipends are already capped and the state of OR gets a comparatively outsized and significant portion of any income we make. Frankly what I'm asking is that we table this- at least until we have a chance to catch our breath, to grieve all that we had to witness be lost the last two years. At the very least we deserve a seat at the table and right now we're still at work.