

Submitter: Patrick Armstead

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1549

While agencies are making a fortune during this pandemic, capping the pay is the absolute worst thing to do. Many nurses will leave the bedside, causing a staffing shortage to worsen. And I cannot think of ANY other government decision that controls/caps a private sectors pay for an employee. And doing so, will cause moderate portion of the nursing field, which is already at it's brink, to walk away. Putting thousands of lives at risk dailu

These agencies were created due to the actions of the facilities that staff nurses. If it wasn't for the agencies forcing the facilities to increase pay some, wages would be stagnant. For example, before agency existed, avamere cut their yearly raises to nurses to 1% per year. While rapidly expanding and buying outside companies to increase profits.

Before looking at capping agency pay, look deep inside the major issues In health care.

One. reate safe staffing ratios for nurses to patients and eliminate the emergency CNA to resident staffing ratios, as some companies are sending staff home to get to that staffing ratio this increasing profit.

Two. If you want to cap pay, look at bonuses paid to CEO and other board members at hospitals and long term care facilities. As nurses were losing hours due to covid census cuts, these executives saw little to no pay cuts.

Three. Cap drug costs, negotiate better prices. Another area to cap to lighten the financial load

Four. Offer protection to nurses. If cops are assaulted on the job, the attacker goes to jail. If a nurse is assaulted by a patient, who is alert and oriented, they are asked what they could have done better to prevent the assault.

Five. Look at assisting facility nurses, either by unionization, or government assistance to require higher pay, retention bonuses and proper staffing.

By capping agency fees, you will in turn cap nursing pay. You will be upsetting a field that is already brittle and near it's breaking point. I hope you reconsider, and focus your attention to FAR more important things in the nursing/healthcare field before creating legislation to protect the profits of health care facilities