

Submitter: Christi Johansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1549

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1549, which will cap pay rates for healthcare agency workers in Oregon. As an emergency room nurse, I have watched the absolute crumbling of our healthcare system since 2020. Placing a cap on the wages of nurses and other workers will only guarantee that more will leave the bedside and fewer travel nurses will take contracts in Oregon, resulting in further shortages, delays in care, and unnecessary illness and death. As you ponder capping the wages of the nurses who take care of your friends, family, and eventually yourself, I implore you to reconsider. It is deplorable that bedside staff wages are being put on the line while hospital systems - and their CEOs - continue to profit in the millions of dollars annually. I will continue to clock in to my exceedingly stressful and physically dangerous job - but how many other nurses will?