

Submitter: Sierra Boyles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

As a current Staff Nurse and former Agency Nurse, it is imperative that Staffing Agency's maintain their ability to charge for staffing healthcare workers, at their discretion. Staffing agency's would not be utilized if they were not needed. Unfortunately, it is the companies & facilities that struggle with staffing and staff retention that utilize agency services. Without these services there would be nobody to care for patients in critical need times where these places cannot find the staff themselves. Ultimately it's the patients that suffer. Agency healthcare staff deserve to be paid, regardless of how high the amount. This is due to the fact that 9/10 the agency healthcare staff are getting assignments and shifts that nobody else (including the client company's own employees) want or are willing to pick up. I have been in both positions as a Staff Nurse and as an Agency Nurse. My current employer would be closed if we didn't have Agency Staff and didn't pay what was asked to staff them. It is not the Healthcare Agency's fault that healthcare facilities are struggling and their pay shouldn't be capped because of it. Every healthcare worker has the ability to work agency and to be paid more and many don't because they don't like the challenges that come with being an agency healthcare worker and what is endured during that time. Although we are there to help, a lot of the time Agency staff get treated poorly by facility staff and are given the worst of the assignments because we are paid to do so. Nobody is going to continue to pick up shifts at facilities with capped pay to experience unfamiliarity with patients, disrespect from facility staff, poor assignments, etc. By capping wages in a state with a very high cost of living and doing so to those who deserve the pay the most, you are doing a disservice to healthcare and to those who need care.