

To whom this may concern,

I am a mother of 4 and a grandmother to 5 young children. Although my children are adults, I am a sole provider for my grandchildren. I have always done what it takes to provide for each of them. Whether that meant leaving one job to go to the next, or working in a factory for 11 days straight, with only 3 days off in between. For the longest time, I had to prioritize my work over anything else in my life, including my health. I worked through cancer and chemotherapy and missed out on many milestones for my family as well. I have been blessed this past year in finding Trinity Nursing, and a newfound passion for providing care services. I was able to quit a factory job that I relied on to provide a roof for my family and food for their stomachs. Working long hours for 11 straight days, and still barely getting by. Working for Trinity has offered me freedom both financially and socially. I am blessed to earn wages that allow me to care for my family's needs, not miss a bill, and allows me to create a schedule that works around the kids' important events. My eldest daughter has also recently quit her factory job to work for Trinity Nursing. She is now better able to provide for her children's needs and will never have to miss another school or sports event. The work we do is not easy and working in direct contact with covid adds to this challenge. Covid has caused a shortage in health care providers of all types. Whether it be due to falling ill, or more commonly, being burnt out. It is difficult to perform in any line of work and feel unsupported. The big reality is that wages have a heavy impact on employees feeling supported. It is difficult to go to a local fast-food restaurant and see their wages rising, while frontline care providers work short-staffed, work sick, and still earn their same, uncompensated wages. That is not the case with Trinity Nursing. I can easily go to work feeling supported, and not worry about whether or not I'll be able to afford next month's bills. Trinity has offered wages that compensate our livelihood as frontline health care providers. Many of the nursing homes I work for rely on us agency aides and nurses in order to run day-to-day. Without us agency employees, these nursing homes would be even more short-staffed, meaning patient's are not receiving the care they deserve. Not only are the patient's needs not being met, but inadequate staffing also means having more unsafe nurse-to-patient ratios, which further risks the health of the client's and the care providers. Even with agency staff, it has still been difficult to fulfill staffing needs, and this crisis would be further exacerbated by cutting agency wages. With that, I urge you to reconsider moving forward with this bill. Consider the mother who relies on her wages to provide a living for her children and grandchildren, and would be unable to do so without fair wages. Consider the patient's who find a family in their caregivers and rely on their assistance to perform simple daily activities. Consider the health care worker who puts the health and safety of their client's above their own. And consider how lowering these fair wages will cause more burnout, and thus, more staffing shortages.

Thank you Trinity Nursing, for giving me a career that is rewarding in so many ways. And for acknowledging what this line of work is truly worth.

Rebecca Camarillo.