

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this to you in opposition to bill 2524 section 5. This bill affects agency workers who depend on their wages. Wages they agreed upon with their company and wages they rely on to pay their bills. Agency workers are known to get paid more than those who work directly for a facility. This is because we work harder by continuously getting thrown into new situations and new nursing homes. We workers go where we are needed, helping because we care to make a difference in our residents' lives. It can be challenging when going to a new place because you must learn so much about the residents and how the facility runs.

When I left my nursing home to go to work for an agency, I was heartbroken. I was heartbroken because I loved my residents, where I worked, and my co-workers. However, I have a family that I need to take care of. It was getting hard for me to stay because I could not work overtime to make ends meet. I count on my hourly wage so I can pay my bills and schooling. I cannot pick up extra hours because I do attend college. If I were to lose my wage, I would be forced to quit school and work more just to cut even. I am currently in school to be a nurse because I want to help give some relief during this shortage and I enjoy what I do. Certified Nurse Aids do not get the credit they deserve for all the demanding work that comes with that title.

I am worried about the state of Kansas if this bill is going to pass. We have millions of Kansans who rely on some sort of state assistance. A study done in 2019 showed that 51.7% of Kansans receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). More Kansans will have to rely on government assistance, thus negatively impacting the economy. With this bill you are asking us to take a pay cut. A pay cut when many of us already live paycheck to paycheck. I ask you to put yourself in our shoes. Imagine getting a new job and a pay raise, just to be asked to keep the title and take a pay cut. This pay cut makes us lose several dollars per hour, making it impossible to balance a healthy and positive lifestyle. Please advocate for us and say NO to bill 2524!

Thank you for your time,

Callie Ludwa.

Source:

“Kansas Health Matters.” *Households Receiving SNAP*, Kansas Health Matters,
<https://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>.