

Fran Lusk

From: Amy Kelly <amy@trinityunitedllc.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Fran Lusk
Subject: Fw: HB2524 Stephanie Spiess Written Testimony

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From: Stephani Spiess <spiessstephani@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Amy Kelly <amy@trinityunitedllc.com>
Subject: HB2524

I am so thankful and blessed to be a part of the amazing team that is Trinity. Working with an agency has been such a huge blessing. This has allowed me to be present for my family. I am a single mom who struggled daily to provide basic needs for my kids on RN wages, I still struggle but I don't have to worry if I am going to be able to provide food and basic necessities for my kids. If it was not for agency, Trinity Nursing Agency, I would have left the nursing field 2 years ago. Instead, we filled all the voids, all of the positions that needed filled during the pandemic, we kept the facilities operating with full staff, good quality staff. Agency staff are held to higher standards, as we should be. To put any law, or regulations, to force agencies to shut down will do NOTHING but hurt these facilities that depend on us to fill their needs. The residents will be the ones to suffer. Aren't we all supposed to be in this for the betterment of these residents? Forcing agencies to close, which this bill will do, will do NOTHING but hurt the residents, what about their quality of life when there is no staff to fill the needs of all of these facilities? Are we no longer important? Are these residents no longer important? Agency staff plays a huge role in healthcare, we go to the facilities that do not have staff to provide care for the residents. Healthcare workers are leaving the field by droves due to the low pay, stress, and straight up back breaking work. Agency staff is the backbone of these facilities right now, now is NOT the time to punish agencies, which again is what this bill does. I would love for each and every one of you, especially single parents, forfeit your pay for a few months and see if you can provide for a family on healthcare wages because you can't! I would dare each of you to step out of your suits and offices, walk into a facility you have never worked in before and see just how hard it is. Spend a month in scrubs, masks and gloves doing what we do, then come tell us we are overpaid. The truth is, we are still underpaid and underappreciated for what we do. We chose agency because we get to make a difference in so many residents' lives, we get to go where those residents would not receive proper care because the facility has no staff, we drive all over the state because we want to help, we want to make a difference, we want to touch as many lives in a positive way as we can, we do this because this is our passion. This bill will do nothing but destroy that passion, that desire to put ourselves in so many unknown situations that we walk into every shift, this will result in hundreds more of us healthcare workers walking away from healthcare. We are in a crisis right now, but this bill passes, this shortage of workers crisis for this state will become unmanageable. We will transfer out licenses to other states and begin working in states that we feel appreciate us and what we do. Please vote no to HB2524, stick up and stand up for Kansas healthcare agency workers.

Thank you
Stephani Spiess RN

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