

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8576

To require a study on the effects of travel nurse agencies on the health industry during the COVID–19 pandemic.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina (for himself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require a study on the effects of travel nurse agencies on the health industry during the COVID–19 pandemic.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Travel Nursing Agency  
5       Transparency Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY ON TRAVEL NURSE AGENCIES.**

7       The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

8               (1) conduct a study on the effects of travel  
9       nurse agencies on the health care industry during

1 the COVID–19 pandemic, which shall include con-  
2 sideration of—

3 (A) the business practices and payment  
4 practices of such agencies, including any poten-  
5 tial price gouging and taking of excessive prof-  
6 its;

7 (B) the difference between how much such  
8 agencies charged health care institutions and  
9 how much they paid their contracted nurses;

10 (C) the extent to which such agencies  
11 could provide more transparency regarding the  
12 payments received from health care institutions,  
13 and the payments made by the agencies to the  
14 nurses who are contracted by such agencies;

15 (D) the specific ways in which rural areas  
16 of the United States were affected by the rise  
17 of travel nursing across the country, and subse-  
18 quent workforce shortage disparities;

19 (E) how States that imposed caps to travel  
20 nurse pay were affected by the market reaction  
21 to such caps;

22 (F) how Federal funds, including the Pro-  
23 vider Relief Fund and any assistance granted to  
24 a health care institution under the Robert T.  
25 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

1           ance Act (42 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), were used by  
2           health care institutions to pay such agencies  
3           throughout the workforce shortages exacerbated  
4           by the COVID–19 pandemic;

5                 (G) the extent to which travel nurse agen-  
6           cy practices contribute to workforce shortages;  
7           and

8                 (H) the extent to which travel nurse agen-  
9           cies have been acquired by private equity firms  
10          and the impact of such acquisitions on the prof-  
11          its of the agencies; and

12          (2) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
13          actment of this Act, submit a report to Congress on  
14          such study.

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