

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4352

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2022

Mr. CRAMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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. 5 121 et seq.), were used
2 by 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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