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To: [HFS.BPPC](#)
Subject: [External] Comments on Reimbursement Rate changes due to Public Act 103-0102
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Please consider requiring 80% of of the reimbursement rate to be passed on as hourly wage. The last time a rate increase happened, many nursing agencies did not adjust pay rates for nurses that reflected the increase. Currently, I know of agencies offering/paying RNs \$25 an hour for in home nursing when the reimbursement rate is set at \$45. It will do no good to raise the reimbursement rate to \$54 if the agencies continue to offer such low rates to nurses and just use the rate increase to increase their profits.

Brand new RN graduates are being hired for \$34/hr at St. John's in Springfield, IL and that does not include sign on bonuses and shift differentials. How can agencies find and hire competent nurses when they won't offer fair wages? They don't. That is why so many homes have very few of their nursing hours filled and when they do get hours filled it ends up being with incompetent nurses. These are complex children that are often ICU level care when they are inpatient. We need to be able to attract high level nurses to care for these complex children. It seems very appropriate to require 80% of the reimbursement rate go to the nurses hourly wage. Automatic cost of living increases in these reimbursement rates would also help assure that the rate stays at an acceptable level.