

# NEWS

## MASA is supporting the National Nurses March on May 12, 2022



Here is an excerpt from correspondence from the National Nurses March Organizing Committee

Dear Friends, Esteemed Colleagues, and Fellow Activists;

National Nurses March is the organizing facilitator of the May 12, 2022 march in Washington, D.C. We were founded in response to the concerns of fellow nursing peers to issues impacting the nursing profession. The founder, Veronica Marshall, started a Facebook group to provide a space for nurses to share experiences and receive support. The page grew organically as nurses expressed frustrations over current work conditions. Today the National Nurses March Facebook page has over 200,000 members.

The group became increasingly discontented by the January 2022 letter from members of Congress requesting an investigation of prices that nurse staffing agencies charge hospitals; this investigation is being pushed by the American Hospital Association. Nurses became angry about the investigation for several reasons. The root causes of the nursing shortage are being ignored and it threatens our right to seek employment that meets our financial needs. Travel nursing has been a viable option for nurses for many years. The hardships of COVID-19 left many nurses feeling unsafe, undervalued, and unappreciated. Nurse staffing agencies offered satisfactory compensation and better working conditions. Veronica's call to action was to organize a march in Washington, D.C. to bring awareness to the plight of nurses and impact legislation.

On May 12, 2022, thousands of nurses and healthcare workers from across the United States will unite at The Ellipse. Our mission is to advocate for nurses and patients by promoting national change in four critical areas: fair wages, safe nurse to patient ratios, violence against healthcare workers, and change the culture of bias and discrimination in the nursing profession.

Information for the March:

Registration:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-nurses-march-2022-washington-dc-tickets-276136921967?fbclid=IwAR1S2s0\\_x4XlpeTyh9vJDOErout09UyukVZV-P9vLUKSdiqA8\\_YSUjrN3Y](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-nurses-march-2022-washington-dc-tickets-276136921967?fbclid=IwAR1S2s0_x4XlpeTyh9vJDOErout09UyukVZV-P9vLUKSdiqA8_YSUjrN3Y)

Donations can be made:

<https://www.every.org/nationalnursesmarch/donate>

A receipt for tax purposes should be available online.

There are multiple states now that either have already or are working on legislation that would cap, in some fashion, travel nurse wages. The states of Minnesota and Massachusetts have, and Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kansas, and Kentucky may join that list.

The American Hospital Association and Congress have requested a federal investigation into nurse staffing agencies and potential price gouging. The stated intention is that by capping the fees the staffing agencies are charging, the hospitals and long-term care facilities will be able to afford more staffing. Sadly, agency fees are not the reason for the staffing shortage, so nurses fear this will simply be a strategy to control/increase facility overhead and do nothing to address nurse shortages across the country. Agency fees increased with the pandemic, but the shortage of nurses existed long before Covid 19.

A member of the MASA Board of Directors has spoken with one of the organizers and learned that the primary mission of the National Nurses March is to:

- Promote change nationally for nurses for fair and realistic wages, including no caps
- Promote safe staffing ratios
- Eliminate violence against healthcare workers
- Promote change in the culture of biases and discriminations in the nursing profession.

MASA supports this agenda and encourages our membership to consider standing with this organization.

MASA is making a contribution to the organization and encourages your support as well.