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March 01, 2022

DOJ Wage Suppression, Job Mobility Charges Signal a New Priority

The Department of Justice Antitrust Division revealed on Jan. 28 the criminal prosecution of a conspiracy that allegedly suppressed wages and limited job mobility for essential health care workers. A federal grand jury in Portland, Maine, [returned a criminal indictment](#) charging four managers of home health care agencies with participating in a conspiracy at the dawn of the Covid-19 pandemic to eliminate competition for Personal Support Specialist (PSS) workers.

Notably, the indictment appears to further several goals in President Biden's [executive order](#) on promoting competition in the American economy, which seeks to "protect workers from wage collusion," to enhance "the economic freedom to switch jobs or negotiate a higher wage," and to promote "the welfare of workers."

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Authors