

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing regarding SB754, the bill to introduce a tax credit for nursing faculty.

As a nursing professor I was required to obtain a Master's degree in Nursing at a cost of about \$30,000...just for my Master's. I already had substantial cost associated with my Associates and Bachelor's. However, I wanted to teach and make an impact on the future of nursing, so I worked hard and completed my MSN with a 4.0.

Now I am a full-time faculty member in an undergraduate nursing program and I make about \$30,000 less per year than I made as a clinic nurse. It is also about \$45,000 less than I could make in acute care or corrections as well (particularly since they pay better than clinic positions).

There are many times I have considered returning to prior fields to improve my pay. Between taxes, living expenses, and student debt it is very difficult to justify working for so little. Especially when I get paid less with an advanced degree than I made as a new graduate more than 12 years ago.

This tax credit doesn't balance the loss of income, but at least there is some recognition and incentive for educators to remain in an area of expertise that is desperately lacking.

Please consider how a bill such as this one can positively affect nursing educators around the state. Thank you.

Kimra Tollefson MA, RN, BSN, MSN Ed.