

To the legislators considering SB 754:

I would like to provide written testimony for SB 754 for the rural tax credit for nurse educators. As a nurse educator who has recently also been the administrator in an urban nursing program in Portland, I am aware that the nurse educator shortage impacts nursing education throughout the state, not just in rural communities. Increasing numbers of nursing programs in the urban areas are exacerbating the shortage, while some nursing schools in the greater Portland area are decreasing enrollment because of a shortage of faculty. Both urban and rural nurse educators are paid less than what they would be paid in a clinical practice setting. It is imperative that we take a state-wide approach to resolve this disparity to be able to educate nurses throughout the state.

While the provisions of this bill are important and the efforts of Sen. Roblan in support of nursing education are greatly appreciated, I respectfully ask that this bill be amended to remove the word "rural" and that benefits be extended to all academic nurse educators across the state of Oregon. This is a statewide issue that impacts the health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

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Pronouns- She, her, hers