

Dear Senators,

My name is Alex Rangel Martinez. I'm currently a Registered Nurse and I work at the emergency department at 2 different places (as a full-time and per diem) at OHSU & Kaiser.

Before I had the great opportunity to enter the Immigrant Nurse Credentialing (INC) program in 2018, I was a caregiver and med tech in an assisted living facility to stay within the similar industry using some of the skills learned from my profession as a nurse in Cuba, like giving oral medications for those residents.

After completing the INC program, my dream was accomplished when I got my nursing license after passing the NCLEX. As I mentioned above, I have been working as Registered Nurse in the emergency department for the last 3 years and prior to that just after passing the NCLEX, in a smaller clinic.

INC program played a role so essential for me to be able to achieve my goals and receive my license back again as a registered nurse. I would never think that thanks to this amazing program, I am able to be where I am now.

Through this program, I received some help and assistance to be able to continue working and coach assistance to attend class. There is so much gratitude because I was able to pass my exam due to all efforts and passion my professor and this program gave.

Re-opening and re-funding this program will bring a new opportunity for those who were nurses on their home countries to be able to go back into the field that they practiced.

There are so many needs for nurses nationwide, but if we can bring more into the practice who are already skilled nurses from our community, that is a total gift we can do to change many people's lives and benefit the whole community.

Sincerely,

Alex Rangel, RN