



February 28, 2023

Hello Senators,

My name is Jane Morrow and I am the nursing department chair at Central Oregon Community College (COCC). I have taught Associate Degree Nurses (ADN) for twenty years at COCC, and am **fully in support of SB 523**.

The COCC trained ADN nurses deserve the opportunity to obtain their RN to BSN locally to advance their career pathway (such as higher salaries and management positions) at our local hospital or other local employers of Bachelor's prepared RNs.

Currently our students access on-line programs, most commonly using Grand Canyon University, to complete their BSN. When asked, students would prefer to attend a local program, both for the decreased cost, and the support of faculty. Traveling to the valley for their education, even if much of it is on-line, requires additional time and money.

Our healthcare community partners, especially our local health care system – St Charles (SCHS), desperately needs Bachelor's prepared Registered Nurses and are spending a tremendous amount of money employing traveling nurses to meet their current needs. SCHS has made it clear that Central Oregon needs a local program to provide the RN to BSN program so we are very much in support of this bill.

Our community knows and trusts us (COCC) and we have a proven track record as our COCC Nursing graduates over the past 5 years have a 93.9% first time pass rate on the NCLEX exam while the national average is 84% over that same time period.

Our COCC ADN-Nursing program is already nationally accredited by ACEN and approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing and would be well positioned to also offer the RN to BSN program. And since the RN to BSN program does not require acute care clinical placements, we would not be burdening our local hospital, SCHS, with having to find additional clinical spots. Student clinical rotations occur in the two years leading up to the RN to BSN program.

In summary, COCC's role is to meet the needs of industry in the counties that we serve and this bill is necessary for us to do that. Please support rural areas such as Central Oregon in offering our own RN to BSN program.

Sincerely,

Jane Morrow MN, RN, CNE
Professor of Nursing and Nursing Department Chair
Central Oregon Community College