

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Suzanne Webber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Brooke Donovan

Current ADN Nursing Student, Klamath Community College

Date: March 1, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

As a current nursing student at Klamath Community College (KCC), it is essential that I provide you reasons why I am in support of SB 523 and how that would positively impact my education as well as those within the community.

Lack of clinical space. The opposing side has explained that there is a lack of clinical support. While this has been an issue for some RN and BSN programs in Oregon it will not come into play with the bridge program. This is because the RN to BSN bridge program does not require clinical hours. This means that I will have met all clinical hours prior to getting accepted into the RN to BSN bridge program. Therefore, nullifying the concern of clinical space for this program.

The impact on my life. Currently, in Klamath Falls we do not have a school that offers a RN to BSN bridge. This means that in order to grow in my career I would have to enroll to a college outside of the area to obtain a BSN. This means that I would be leaving the support of the instructors and peers that I currently have at KCC. Being able to pursue my BSN at Klamath Community College would mean that I would have support from peers and instructors. It also means that if at any point I needed assistance with an assignment I would be able to go to my local college for assistance. I believe that having this assistance available aids in success in the program. After getting my BSN I am going to continue my education and become a Nurse Practitioner. This means that not only will I need to complete an RN to BSN bridge program, but I will need to be successful in the program to increase the likelihood of getting into a Nurse Practitioner program.

The impact on the community. Being able to complete the RN to BSN bridge program at a Community College would significantly reduce the cost of education and reduce a barrier that might keep many people from furthering their education. This means that with more affordable and accessible education it would increase the number of BSNs in our communities. Therefore, solving or preventing any issues of a lack of qualified nursing instructors and help retain qualified nurses in our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brooke Donovan