

Submitter: Angelica Thompson Ruelas
On Behalf Of: Clackamas Community College
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB523

My name is Angelica Thompson Ruelas, and I am a nursing student at Clackamas Community College in Clackamas. I am here today to urge your support of Senate Bill 523, which would give community colleges the ability to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

I am an immigrant from Mexico, a Spanish medical interpreter, and a student. Currently, I am having to use my savings as well as food stamps to be able to financially maintain myself. Having an opportunity to be able to earn my BSN at the community college where I earned my associate's degree in nursing would allow me to maintain my current relationships with the faculty and staff. In addition, having the opportunity to pursue my BSN in community college would allow me to have less financial stress.

I love the Clackamas nursing program for many reasons. If I could have the opportunity to do an extra year to do my BSN with teachers that I am comfortable with and I know would give me the best education, I would do it in a heartbeat. Many students I know are in similar situations as mine where we must juggle financial stress, family life, work, and school. Being able to find accessible schooling options for our BSN would greatly lessen the financial impact.

Thank you for your time reading this testimony.

-Angelica Thompson Ruelas