

SB523

My name is Kathryn Paratore and I am a nursing student currently enrolled at Oregon Coast Community College, in Newport, Oregon. I am here to urge you to support the Senate Bill 523, which would give the community colleges the opportunity and availability to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

A huge part of going to college and navigating a different lifestyle through nursing school consisting of studying, classes and time management which can be very difficult. In the short couple years that we have in the nursing program, finding a group of people who share the same values, drive, and essentially a support group though school has been very important. I have found an amazing support group here through the staff and the students here at OCCC that I never found in my 4 years of my previous undergrad (BS degree). I think this is a huge reason for success at community college and this is why I urge you to pass this bill so students do not have to change their support groups.

In my 4 years of undergrad, I transferred 5 times. Transferring is very tiring, and it takes a lot out of a student to find a new support group. Along with transferring to a college that will accredit a BSN and the weight of new class, it is so hard to find a support group that is experiencing the same things you are. Nursing school cohorts may be smaller, but they have such close-knit friendships that will be cherished for a lifetime, I think it would be an incredible opportunity to see us all through to the end when we hold the BSN degree and title in hand. I urge you to consider this bill for the emotional health of the students and for them to not switch up what they have known for the past 2 years during their associate degree. I know from personal experience how hard transferring and starting somewhere new is and I dread the thought of having to find a new support system and navigate an extra year to obtain a BSN from yet another institution. I highly urge you to consider this bill.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Paratore