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400 SE College Way  
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March 1, 2023

Subject: SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees

Dear Legislative Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. The passage of this bill would provide valuable secondary education and career opportunities for Oregon students in a field that continues to suffer an inadequate number of qualified professionals.

Oregon Coast Community College in Lincoln County has a very successful AAS Nursing program. Our program has historically had many more applicants than available seats and our graduates have a high pass rate on the State exams. Additionally, because of demand in the healthcare field, our students typically have secured positions at our hospitals and clinics prior to graduation, and many are highly motivated to pursue a BSN degree. The ability to offer a lower-cost option for that degree would be significant for our students, allowing them to remain in their jobs and continue to live locally, thus avoiding the inconvenience and financial burden of uprooting themselves and their families. It would also allow them to stay in a familiar learning environment where they have already been successful. In this way, SB532 would benefit not only students but also Oregon communities.

Due to the high costs that come with offering career/technical programs, rural colleges often struggle to offer varied program opportunities for students to continue their educational progress. SB523 would allow colleges that have already made the significant financial investment into the infrastructure needed to offer a nursing program, the opportunity to utilize that investment even further for the betterment of its students.

By lifting some of the financial burden for students and providing higher utility of the dollars spent by community colleges on their nursing programs, SB532 provides a valuable opportunity to make an impact on all fronts - locally, statewide, and nationwide.

Please vote in favor of SB523 - Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. Thank you for your support of community colleges and their students.

Sincerely,

*Robin Gintner*

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Vice President, Administrative Services

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