

TREASURE VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 2, 2023

Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony for SB 523

Dear Committee:

I am a current board member at Treasure Valley Community College located in Ontario, Oregon, and the Past President of the Oregon Community College Association.

There is a huge need for nurses in Oregon, especially in the rural areas and the only way it is feasible to raise the percentage of BSN nurses in our state is to provide more RN-BSN training programs. I firmly believe our community colleges are ready and able to meet this challenge. The Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing Initiative has recommended having 80% of nurses at the BSN level, yet only 62% of Oregon nurses are there.

The passing of SB 523 will provide community colleges the opportunity to offer a lower-cost option for RN graduates to pursue their academic studies. RN graduates will also see the benefits as they continue their academic journey in an educational setting where students and faculty have established relationships, familiar and conducive learning environments, established student support and mentoring, and more affordable financial career paths.

I encourage you to please vote in favor of SB 523! Thank you for helping our students have a greater educational opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen J. Crow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Crow