

SB 523 Written Testimony

My name is Janelle Chavez and I am a nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport Oregon. 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 have a family and a long standing commitment to my community and moving-even temporarily-to complete my BSN at another institution would be impossible for me to do without uprooting my family and breaking my commitments to my community. Moving would put a huge financial burden on my family since we are low income when I am enrolled as a full-time student. My husband has a long-standing job in our community that supports my family, so leaving my community to pursue a BSN at another institution would put my family in a very difficult financial situation. I would be unable to pursue a BSN and ultimately put my family into a better financial situation if I am not able to earn that BSN at my local community college. Allowing my local community college to offer a BSN program keeps me and my family at home with minimal disruption, but still afford me the opportunity to earn a higher degree.

Thank you for your consideration,

Janelle Chavez