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Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment regarding SB 523.

SB 523 is good for Oregon.

I concur with the testimony you heard from my fellow community college presidents and nursing directors. The community college Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) effectively increased access to quality, affordable BSN degrees, especially in rural areas and for place-bound students.

The success of this model is not speculation. Currently, twelve other states offer the community college BSN degree, with Washington to the north being the closest option. With our higher populations of students of color, the community college BSN can contribute to increasing workforce diversity resulting in more culturally competent care.

Let's bring this proven model to Oregon.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lisa Skari", written in a cursive style.

President Lisa Skari