

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Shawnee Fettinger

Student, Klamath Community College

Date: March 3, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

Regarding senate bill 532, I am writing this letter of testimony to support Community Colleges in offering a RN-BSN program. I am currently a student in the Associate's Degree of Nursing at Klamath Community College. I was born and raised in Klamath Falls, and I am proud to be a nursing student at Klamath Community College. Klamath Community College has afforded me the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a registered nurse. While obtaining my prerequisites courses, I attended Oregon Institute of Technology and Eastern Oregon University, but compared to the Klamath Community College, these Universities did not offer a more personal approach to my academics, therefore I have done exceptionally well academically at Klamath Community College. Throughout my education at Klamath Community College, I have built many professional and personal relationships with educators who have inspired me to further my education from ADN-BSN.

One of the greatest apprehensions that have made me question whether or not to pursue a bachelor's degree after obtaining an Associate's, is that most universities I have reached out to for information cannot give me a definite answer as to if my acquired credits will transfer to the University. I have been made to feel less of a student for having gone to a community college to obtain a nursing education from these universities. I do not wish to repeat or take extra college courses that do not benefit me as a student, therefore if Klamath Community College were able to offer a bachelor's program, this would allow for a smooth transition into a bachelor's degree.

With the recent pandemic that has affected every one of us, our society, in general, is in desperate need of more medical/nursing professionals. As I approach graduation, I am beginning to apply for nursing positions, but most require or prefer a bachelor's degree. If the community college in my rural county were able to offer a bachelor's program, this would not only benefit me; but many other members of my community. A bachelor's degree would open many more opportunities for nurses as they further their education and possibly go on to become Nurse Practitioners or Nurse Educators.

So, I ask the members of the Senate Committee to consider the fact that there are many shortages in health care, and there are no reparations for allowing Community Colleges to offer Bachelor's degrees, but only benefits to our communities and to our state.

Shawnee Fettinger

Student Nurse