

Support for HB 3324

March 29, 2023

To: Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Jazzy Walker, Nurse Administrator Clackamas Community College

Re: Support for HB 3324, Incentives for nursing school faculty and staff

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs, and committee members,

My name is Jazzy Walker, nurse administrator at Clackamas Community College. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for HB 3324. As you have heard, nursing programs are struggling to recruit and retain qualified nurse educators. Before I took my position as the nurse administrator, I was working bedside in the ICU. When I was offered my position and the salary was over \$20,000 less than what I made currently, it almost turned me away completely.

Nursing educators in academic positions earn significantly less than clinical or private-sector nurses with the same education. Nursing education requires hands-on learning, with students training directly under current nurses in clinical experiences. This kind of training requires smaller class sizes – and hence, more faculty, so these programs are, as Rep Nelson – to ensure close supervision in real-world healthcare settings.

HB 3324 will help nursing school programs recruit and retain qualified nurse educators. I strongly urge you to approve this bill.

Thank you,
Jazzy Walker
Jazzy Walker