

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

FROM: Jazmin Hager

Current ADN Nursing Student, Oregon Coast Community College

Date: March 3, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

My name is Jazmin Hager, and I am a nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport. 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.

By offering a BSN at a local community college would give students the opportunity to complete their degree without having to travel long distances or doing an online program. Doing in person classes offers a better education experience than online due to having real in person interaction with professors and other students. It would give us (students) a chance to work with the college faculty that we already know and have relationships with. I personally would love the opportunity to do a degree locally versus having to travel to another city or even state to pursue a higher education. It is not always possible to afford higher education while also having to relocate to do so. Online classes are an option but are not as engaging as in person classes with a group of peers. Being in Tillamook County there are not any RN to BSN programs offered locally and I would have to travel out to Portland area or do an online program.

Community college education is more affordable in general than a university making it so that students like myself can afford to get a higher education without taking unnecessary student loans to pay for the same education. Being able to go through school with minimal loans was a goal of mine and being able to have a cheaper but equivalent option of a BSN at a community college would help me achieve that goal. Providing a higher education for small rural communities with community college programs will make it so nurses can further their education and get a BSN while keeping their small-town job and helping rural communities. Having higher education will give me the option to have higher level jobs where I would be able to take on a leadership role. If the opportunity was available to get a BSN cheaper, I would be very interested in further my education even more to go on to get higher education to give back to not only my local community through direct patient care but also consider teaching to help provide the community with more competent nurses.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jazmin Hager