

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Suzanne Webber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Leta Main
Current ADN Nursing Student, Oregon Coast Community College
Date: March 1, 2023
RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

My name is Leta Main, 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.

I am someone who grew up in a small town, in a low-income family where no one went to college after they graduated. While in high school, I did not know if going to college would be an option for me when I heard about the financial aspect of college after touring different universities. Then, a professor came to my high school from Oregon Coast Community College to speak to us which was when I realized there was a huge difference in tuition cost between universities and community colleges. I was able to start attending college, through Oregon Coast Community College where there were many opportunities and I have continued to live with my parents which in turn has saved me a lot of money.

I have been going to Oregon Coast Community College for 3 years now, where I am currently enrolled in an ASN program. During my time at this college, I have been able to make many relationships with professors, peers, people in the community, and programs and have found many resources. I now have a great support system that benefits people my age dramatically during college, my peers have become friends and people that I know I can count on.

Now, while thinking about getting my BSN after I graduate, I am burdened with the worries about finances again and where I will need to travel to achieve this degree while working. Not only would I be worried about finances and traveling, but I would also lose my support system that I have worked hard to build. If my local community college had a BSN program, I would for sure want to and would get my BSN. With the struggle to find healthcare professionals in our community, it would benefit the local hospitals drastically by having higher qualified personnel. Bill 523 would benefit many people and our communities by nurses furthering their education to get their BSN. Nurses would be much more likely to go after this degree if it were offered locally due to having fewer obstacles in their way.

Please vote yes for SB523.

Leta Main, Nursing Student