

Submitter: Michael Drake

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: SB523

As a recent graduate of the Central Oregon Community College Nursing program, I fully support and encourage the passing of this bill. While in school several out-of-state private colleges came to class to recruit students for their programs. These programs are very expensive and some are not fully accredited, thus credits earned may not transfer to other institutions should the student choose to pursue advanced degrees. Currently, the only public institution registered nurses in Oregon can attend to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is Oregon Health and Science University. This bill would allow nurses to pursue their BSNs at a community college in the area they are practicing. In addition to being more accessible, this bill would also keep the education dollars within the community. Registered Nurses with a BSN have more opportunities for advancement in their work setting and also have the ability to earn a higher pay. Registered nurses in Oregon should have access to more public institution options to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing.