



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
Lisa Skari, Ed.D  
*President*  
503-491-7211  
Lisa.Skari@mhcc.edu

April 24, 2023

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment regarding SB 523.

SB 523 is good for Oregon.

To date, there has been a fair amount of testimony in support of this bill from healthcare providers, community college presidents, nursing directors, and others. I concur with their statements. The community college Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) effectively increases access to quality, affordable BSN degrees in Oregon, especially in rural areas and for our state's place-bound students.

The success of this model is not speculation. Currently, twelve other states offer the community college BSN degree, with Washington to the north being the closest option. With our higher populations of students of color, the community college BSN can contribute to increasing workforce diversity resulting in more culturally competent care.

The community college RN to BSN is a proven model that would benefit Oregon.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Skari", with a stylized flourish at the end.

President Lisa Skari