

TO: Oregon House of Representatives
FROM: Allene Brennan
Current ADN Nursing Student, Oregon Coast Community College
Date: April 23, 2023
RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Oregon House of Representatives Members,

I am writing to you to give you my reasons, as a current ADN nursing student, why SB523 should be passed. It would have a major impact on our current and future nursing students and community.

For many people in smaller towns, like Lincoln County, we do not have any BSN programs offered, we usually would have to travel miles or move while we are in school just to be able to go to the program that we want to be able to further our education. As a mother of four, being able to have a BSN program close to my family would benefit tremendously as I would still be able to stay home while going to school to better provide for my family. Some students may choose not to get their BSN degree for this reason alone, which is depressing as it could mean we have had better educated nurses caring for us or our family members if we just provided them with a program that is more accessible to them locally. That is why SB523 would be an excellent bill to pass, make it more convenient and people would have a better opportunity to furthering their education.

Since I have been at Oregon Coast Community College, as it is a smaller school, the instructors and counselors are more connected with the students that attend the school. Which builds a better connection with the students. A lot of people prefer to attend smaller schools for this reason, as a student you feel like the instructors want you to succeed more and graduate compared to the bigger Universities, since they have too many students to be able to make this dedication. Being able to have a BSN program at this school would be a better option for this reason, that having to transfer to a new school can cause anxiety for the student. They do not have that connection and trust that they had with their previous instructors and they may not have the support to be successful.

Bringing this bill to pass would bring a lot of financial burden off of the nursing students as it will decrease the cost they would be having to pay for their program. As most RN to BSN programs are expensive, mostly to them being at the more expensive Universities. Being able to implement this program into a Community College would mean that the tuition cost would decrease. More students would be able afford to further their education with this bill and we would have more educated nurses in our hospitals and clinics in the community.

Thank you.

Allene Brennan