

TO: Oregon House of Representatives

FROM: Brittney

Current ADN Nursing Student, Oregon Coast Community College

Date: April 22, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Oregon House of Representatives Members,

As a current nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC), I want to share why I support SB 523 and why it would benefit my educational goals and our community.

Our current program in our community does not offer an RN to BSN bridge. However, if I wish to continue my education goals from RN to BSN, I must enroll in a program outside of my community or even out of state. It also means losing the in-person support I receive from my peers and instructors. I need to find a way to form the same study groups with my peers or get the same help on assignments and mentor meetings with instructors. Having the option to get my BSN through my local community college would also be financially beneficial. As a single mother of two, every penny counts while trying to obtain my educational goals and better provide for my family.

An RN to BSN bridge program at Oregon Coast Community College would benefit our community. Our current RN program is very involved with the community. In my last term, we raised over \$1,200 for an emergency housing program. Most studies show that people get jobs within the community in which they attend school. Having a BSN program locally could mean retaining more healthcare workers, which is a high need.

I appreciate your consideration,

Brittney Pike