

March 18, 2025
Senate Committee on Healthcare
Re: Support SB 27

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee:

My name is Amariah, and when I first found the Long-Term CareWorks CNA apprenticeship, I was facing one of the toughest challenges in my life. I was newly unemployed and homeless, and I was looking for a way to rebuild everything I had just lost. I have faced many financial barriers to continuing my education and have been the victim of fraud by schools I've formerly attended. I never thought I'd be able to afford to go back to school.

Participating in an apprenticeship, along with the stipend I received as an apprentice, not only helped me afford rides to classes but also provided essentials I needed while experiencing homelessness such as food, clothing, and a way to keep my cell phone on. With less stress about money, I was able to focus on obtaining my certification. Having other items provided such as a laptop, backpack, scrubs, and shoes also helped boost my confidence. I was able to complete the training and work in a facility feeling like I belonged.

The support and guidance I received from my Career Coach was a huge asset because there were many times I needed help, and she was always there with resources or just to provide encouragement. Having someone on my side giving amazing advice definitely contributed to my success. I believe Oregon should invest in more apprenticeships like this so people like me can find confidence in life again and be able to work in a field they're passionate about without the stress or worry about how the education will be paid for.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 27. Thank you.

Amariah Buchanan