



# Samaritan

## Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center

*Building healthier communities together*

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[www.samhealth.org](http://www.samhealth.org)

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### **LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HB 2540**

I am pleased to write this letter of support for HB 2540, which would allow qualified community colleges to award applied Baccalaureate Degrees in Nursing (BSN) to individuals who have previously earned an Associate's degree in nursing and who meet the requirements for obtaining a state nursing license.

Here at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis – as well as at our affiliated hospitals in Albany and Lebanon – we work closely with Linn-Benton Community College in the education and training of dozens of nurses each year. We hire the majority of these nurses upon graduation, and the presence of LBCC's program makes a huge impact on our ability to meet our nursing workforce needs for the region. LBCC's Health Occupations program is highly-regarded, and local voters recently approved a bond measure that will relocate these students into a new, larger facility next to the medical school in Lebanon.

For many organizations such as ours, the attainment of a BSN degree is a requirement for nurse managers and other clinical leaders. Because there are currently so few BSN programs state-wide, many of our Associate degree nurses are currently involved in out-of-area or distance learning programs in pursuit of their Bachelor's degree. This often poses a hardship on their personal lives and also provides additional scheduling challenges as we work to accommodate their class schedules and requirements.

If HB 2540 is adopted and programs such as LBCC's are allowed to offer BSN degrees, there is no question that it would make a positive impact on the quality of patient care and also on the quality of our workforce by infusing more BSN-trained nurses into our staff.

We are pleased to add our support to this important legislation, and we encourage your favorable action.

Sincerely,

Becky Pape  
Chief Executive Officer