

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support SB754, I just feel it was not far reaching enough. Although we are not a rural nursing program, Clackamas Community College had 2 unfilled faculty positions for 2 years and to keep the program afloat, the few faculty we had all worked significantly over their agreed upon workload, often uncompensated.

Nursing faculty salaries, especially for new faculty are appalling. Our ADN students walk out of the door as an RN and an AAS degree with debt, but immediately begin to earn much more than a full-time master's prepared faculty with years of nursing experience and significant debt. I have been at Clackamas for 18 years and if you averaged out my salary, it is still well below a new RN. I have debt that will haunt me the rest of my life. At 65 years, I will keep working, but know that it will never fully repaid.

I believe SB 754 is a start. We have to start somewhere. Of the 750 nursing faculty in our state 30- 50 % are at retirement age now or within the next 3-5 years. It is frightening. If SB754 passes, we can then move on to the next phase of helping all nursing faculty: those already in that role, and one in which the work is NEVER done as it is when you work a 12 hour shift in a hospital, and those who are drawn to teaching but cannot accept the drastic cut in pay and the increased workload.

Sincerely,

Carol Dodson RN, MS

Nurse Administrator/Nurse Educator

Health Sciences Department

Clackamas Community College