

Senator Arnie Roblan
SD 5
Oregon State Senate
Salem Oregon

Dear Senator Roblan,

I am writing in support of SB 754, which will provide tax credits to nursing faculty in rural areas. As the nursing department chair at Central Oregon Community College (COCC), I am fully aware of the difficulties faced when hiring community college nursing faculty. While hiring faculty in Bend is a struggle, it is all the more so in rural areas. Simply put, nurses qualified to teach can make double the salary working in almost any other area of nursing. A tax credit would go a long way in closing this gap.

Over half the COCC nursing faculty will retire in the next five years. While this issue is pressing now, I believe that with retirements, the instructor shortage will grow exponentially. My fear is that many nursing programs will have to decrease enrollment, at a time with the nursing shortage could very well be at a peak.

I realize this bill applies to rural faculty, which is where the greatest shortage currently exists. That being said, a shortage of nursing faculty is being felt statewide, and I hope that at some point the legislation is expanded to include all community college nursing faculty.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter. I greatly appreciate your willingness to champion this bill.

Sincerely,

*Jane Morrow MN, RN, CNE
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