

February 22, 2019

Dear Senator Roblan,

I am writing this letter in support for SB 754. I have been a registered nurse working in acute care for 22 years. As a student I had great respect for my nursing instructors, and made the decision early in my career to end my career in education, with the goal of giving back to the profession.

As a student, I had no idea how reduced the salary is for an educator as opposed to a member of the acute care team. I chose to take a position at Blue Mountain Community College in September of 2017. I did not realize that this would mean a \$30,000.00-dollar annual reduction in salary. As a care provider who has worked labor and delivery, emergency department, emergency department manager, trauma, trauma coordinator, and nursing supervisor, along with day surgery, and post anesthesia care, I feel that I have a wealth of information to use and share with students in nursing education. I am however struggling with the decision to stay in education, or return to the acute care arena as many other educators have done. This struggle is directly based on the reduction in salary, which not only affects my annual salary, but also my retirement. The outcome of the SB 754 bill will have a huge impact on my personal decision. I believe it will also have an impact on the ability to bring more experienced registered nurses into the education arena, which is currently a problem in nursing education.

Thank you for considering this bill, and the impact it has on nursing educators in rural Oregon.

With warmest regards,

Jennifer Peterson

Instructor of Nursing

Blue Mountain Community College

2411 NW Carden

Pendleton, OR 97801

541-278-5875

jpeterson@bluecc.edu

