

February 22, 2019

The Honorable Arnie Roblan, SD 5  
United States Senate  
900 Court St NE #417, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Roblan,

My name is Caitlyn Terrell (maiden name McIntosh). I am a graduate of Marshfield High School, class of 2000, while you were acting principal, so I am that much more pleased to be writing you now, in this prestigious position. I have been a registered nurse now for the past ten years, and in the past two, have gone into nursing education, as Nursing Faculty at Linn-Benton Community College.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 754, the proposed tax credit for nurse educators. I know that you are aware of the nursing shortage, both nationally, and in our local areas, including my hometown of Coos Bay. One of the identified root causes and barriers to addressing this shortage is the inability to recruit and retain qualified nurse educators. In my short time in education, I have seen firsthand the turnover of nurse faculty, as well as positions left vacant for months on end. At the same time, the numbers of applications for students to enter these programs is climbing. However, without the educational staff, we cannot meet the demands. This is true in both rural and non-rural areas, and it transcends to healthcare facilities and difficulty meeting our community needs. I have personally heard testimony of this today from nursing professionals from community colleges across the state.

The proposed SB754 would be an excellent step in the right direction, to start to combat this shortage by increasing recruitment and retention of nurse educators, especially in those underserved areas. This could also serve as a precedent to the rest of our country, which could ultimately benefit the entire nursing profession. Nurses, dare I say, are critical players in meeting the changing and growing healthcare needs of our nation. We see report after report on the shortages, including recommended actions from places such as the Institute of Medicine (there is an entire section on nursing education), but little action has occurred. How exciting to be able to be at the forefront, to make a stand and do something tangible to say, "In Oregon, we support nurses!"

I will not be able to attend the hearing on this coming Monday, February 25, 2019, but I feel strongly about this cause. I am passionate about the future of nursing, as well as the future of healthcare in rural areas, including my hometown of Coos Bay, as well as my new teaching

home base, in Lebanon, Oregon. I am so pleased that someone from a rural area and who has a great respect for education is hearing our testimonies. I am a respectful champion for SB 754. Its passing would certainly be a “win” for nursing, and benefit healthcare in our local communities.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Terrell RN, BS, MSN

Resource: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing/Nursing%20Education%202010%20Brief.pdf>

See page 7.