



**Lake Health District**  
*Quality Care Close to Home*

Lake District Hospital  
Lake Health Clinic  
Lake Health Specialty Clinic  
Home Health & Hospice  
Lake County Public Health  
Lake District Emergency Medical Services  
Lake District Wellness Center & Prevention

February 1, 2023

Senate Higher Education Committee  
Oregon State Capitol

To Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I am writing you in full support of SB523 regarding the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

In 2019, SB3 gave community colleges the ability to offer applied baccalaureate (BAS) degrees if authorized by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). However, if colleges are to offer a bachelor-level component in nursing, further legislation is needed in order to call the nursing degree a BSN, which is the industry and regulator-recognized title, rather than a BAS-N, which is not recognized by employers and nursing boards.

- A community college option for earning a BSN degree would increase access to four-year nursing degrees across Oregon and particularly in rural areas.
- A student with a BSN has more opportunities for promotion and higher pay.
- Many community college RN graduates are paying more expensive out-of-state, online providers to attain a BSN. Local community college alternatives would provide a lower-cost option.
- At Klamath Community College, only 16.5% of nursing graduates over the last five years went on to earn a BSN. If community colleges were able to offer the BSN, it would provide a valuable local and option to RN graduates who are not pursuing the BSN to continue their education with familiar faculty, learning environments, student supports and - critically - a more affordable career pathway than currently exists.
- An RN-to-BSN program from a community college will provide the opportunity for more equitable outcomes for underserved, often marginalized populations, as education from community colleges is a more accessible, affordable option.

SB3 would greatly improve our staff's ability to affordably transition from RN to BSN, especially with our existing strong relationship with Klamath Community College where

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This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

we have many local residents enrolled at the college that have progressed from CNA to RN. Local residents that become nurses most frequently stay in their community long term.

I urge you to sign on to SB523 and support higher level skills in a critical field.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles B. Tveit". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and "T".

Charles B. Tveit

Chief Executive Officer