



Dr. Alberto M. Flores
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February 28, 2023

Subject: SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees

Dear Legislator Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. The support for the passing of this Bill will provide further education and career opportunities for students. As a rural community college, Bill523 would provide students with a BSN degree and the access to pursue and earn a 4-year nursing degree. In addition, Bill523 would provide students with opportunities for career placement, advancement, and higher wages.

Granting this Bill will provide community colleges the opportunity to offer a lower-cost option for RN graduates to pursue their academic studies. RN graduates will seemingly continue their academic journey in an educational setting where students and faculty have established relationships, familiar and conducive learning environments, established student support and mentoring, and a more affordable financial career path.

In addition, the approval of Bill523 will address the nursing shortages in underserved or marginalized populations. It will provide additional opportunities for BSN Community College graduates to pursue additional credentials and Master's degrees. Having a viable local and affordable option for nursing students to advance their credentials is critical to meeting healthcare needs.

Community Colleges in the state of Oregon have a proven and well-documented record of student success completing the 2-year Associate Degrees in Nursing and an 85% successful completion rate on the Registered Nurse (RN) certification exam. SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees will provide greater opportunities for students and the community they will serve.

Please vote in favor of SB523. Thank you for helping our students have greater educational opportunities.

Regards,

Alberto M. Flores

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