

February 28th, 2023

Evelyne Beltran

Klamath Community College

1145 Tamera Drive

Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

I am writing this letter because it has come to my attention that legislature is reviewing the consideration of Senate Bill 523. I understand this would allow community colleges like Klamath Community College to offer the community an RN to BSN program. Before I explain why this is extremely important, I wanted to introduce myself and tell you a little about my unconventional nursing journey.

I am a 43-year-old single mother of three. I became a United States citizen at the age of 17. I am a very proud Mexican American, and I will be the first to graduate from college in my family this summer. I have felt a strong connection with people and yearning to help them throughout my lifetime. I became a certified nursing assistant in 2009, followed by getting license in practical nursing in 2013. I have worked in rural Klamath Falls since obtaining my license as a practical nurse in a skilled nursing facility on their transitional care unit. I was one of two fluent Spanish speakers in this facility. I truly love nursing and started working steadily toward completing my prerequisites for a possible licensed practical nurse to registered nursing bridge program. Unfortunately, that was not available through Klamath Community College when I was

ready to apply; however, I was accepted into their two-year Associate Degree in Nursing program in the Fall of 2021. I am incredibly thrilled with my instructors, the college itself, and the education path I have chosen to pursue. After I obtain my Associate Degree in Nursing (AND- RN), I look forward to obtaining my Bachelor of Science in Nursing shortly after. My ultimate goal would be to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner specializing in children. I strongly believe I could be an asset to my community in this role and to the state of Oregon.

Reflecting on why I think Senate Bill 532 is so vital, I believe it will breathe life back into this rural community. I firmly believe it will give the Klamath Basin a chance to grow positively into the future. I do not believe our community has enough programs or educational availability for us, mothers and fathers, possible late education bloomers, or students that need to take their education in steps like I have had to do. I want my community to have options for the expansion of knowledge at any age; flexible and doable. In addition, I believe in Klamath Community College. I am proud to say I am part of this community and proud of the education I have been provided thus far.

I urge the legislature to consider Senate Bill 532 for our community, for the conventional students and unconventional students, as myself. Please provide us a chance to grow and serve our community, as the Klamath Basin desperately needs us to do.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Evelyne Beltran

