

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Cassandra Perkins

Current LPN student

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup> ,2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

I am writing this to you in hopes you hear my voice of wanting to be able to continue my nursing education with Klamath Community College. You can do this by supporting the college by allowing SB 523 to pass. I want to provide you with the reasons why this is important to myself and others in the community. This is important to me because Klamath Community College is a rural area and is in dire need of more bachelor prepared nurses, familiarity/support and it is more cost effective for me.

**Rural area/Need.** Klamath is a rural area and is in need of more bachelor prepared nurses. If SB 523 passes, it would help with the high demand we have for nurses here at our community facilities. If we could get more nursing students here to Klamath that would open up the opportunity for the community facilities to employ more nurses once they have graduated with their BSN. This would be a win for the student nurses and the community because they will be familiar with the community facilities, their policies, the staff

**Familiarity/Support.** This subject holds very dear to my heart. I have only been to college at Klamath Community College. I did my prerequisites for nursing here and fought tooth and nail to be in the LPN program I am in now. I like that I always see familiar faces and I am familiar with the school layout and where my instructor's offices are at. I do love that the classes are smaller, the school has been very helpful in helping out with my studies (even with interviewing for the programs). I feel like Klamath Community College is my little family outside my home. And I feel like it is important especially when in nursing school to have that type of support. Also, I love the fact if I have questions, the instructors are always available with questions.

**Cost Effective.** As many know, community colleges normally cost less than bigger colleges so that once I graduate, I would not have to pay back as much money in student loans, my payment amount a month would be less, and I would be able to pay it off faster.

In hopes of pursuing my dream, I want to continue from RN to BSN, eventually leading to getting my masters degree in nursing. With SB 523 passing, this would be a step in the right direction and keep me in the college I have grown my education in.

Thank you for your time.

Cassandra Perkins