

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

FROM: Jazzy Walker, RN, BSN, CMSRN

NURSING STUDENT: Rebeca Gonzales

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

RE: Support for the SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

I am currently enrolled at Klamath Community College as an ADN Nursing student. I am writing in regards that SB 523 will pass. As a nursing student working on their associate's degree, I would like to further my education on pursuing my bachelor's degree in nursing in a local setting, in hopes to continue for my Master's degree.

**Community College Access:** Being able to continue my education locally at my community college would be extremely beneficial because of the comfortability and repetition that I have already established with the college. As a current student, being able to transfer from the RN program into a BSN program would be a blessing. Knowing how the facility is, the trustworthy relationships established with staff and how cost efficient a community college is can help me succeed as I further my education in nursing.

**Utilizing Resources:** Anytime I need help with something or have questions that need clarification, I can ask my professor. With a RN-BSN bridge program being local it would ease my mind knowing I have that access to go to the college to receive that extra assistance. Having the ability to get help in person helps me be more successful in school. Nursing programs themselves are very competitive to get into as is and being able to bridge into a BSN program at a school I am already enrolled in is ideal.

**Rural Area:** Born and raised in a rural city, there have been a shortage of bachelor's prepared nursing staff and nursing educators. In order to help bring on more faculty in those areas, it is crucial that more nursing education programs are brought in the community so we can keep students and employees in the community.

Thank you for time and consideration in this matter, it is greatly appreciated.

Rebecca Gonzales