

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

From: Cody Mattos

Current ADN Student, Klamath Community College

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

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

Hello, my name is Cody Mattos and I am a current student at Klamath Community College enrolled in the RN program. As you are about to review a bill in favor of bringing RN to BSN programs to community colleges in the state of Oregon, I would like to offer a few examples on how a program like this would benefit myself and many others in my shoes. For starters it is easy to say the cost of the programs are almost always a heavy financial burden to undertake and it goes without say that being able to continue my education for a lower price is one of the most helpful aspects of a community college offered RN to BSN program.

Aside from cost there are a myriad of other reasons that these types of programs would benefit students. As with any community, there are levels of comfort you feel being a part of one for such a long time. Through my prerequisites here at KCC I have built a wonderful relationship with many of the staff, and they are a part of my everyday life even for those who no longer have me as their student. Being able to stay within this environment and continue my education would simply mean the world to me as that support system that I have come to know and appreciate over the last few years would be there for me throughout the remaining courses that I would need to take. The faculty at this school have gone above and beyond for their students at every step of the way and knowing that I would have them as I took the next steps in my education would truly make a great difference.

Another great reason to have an ADN to BSN program offered at community colleges is the benefit it would bring to each community. Students that look to pursue their BSN may sometimes need to leave the area to accomplish that goal, meanwhile if we were able to stay in our community and finish our schooling then our hospitals or other medical facilities would not have to worry about losing us as their employees. Being able to take classes locally ensures we can remain where our hearts are and continue to give the best care to those in our community whom we deeply care for.

With the nursing shortages we face and were hit so heavily with during covid, it is also important to note that the more opportunities to bring more bachelor's prepared nurses into the field the better. That begins with our nursing faculty. As someone who has played with the idea of becoming a nurse educator one day down the road it is important for me to have the opportunity to achieve that level of education to accommodate that goal. Giving more opportunities to go beyond an ADN to people who live in areas where these programs aren't currently possible could very well improve the number of faculty, we have to support us and make that possible.

I sincerely hope that you consider accepting this bill and thank you for the time you have given me in reading this letter.