

March 1, 2023

RE: SB 523

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 523.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Willamette Workforce Partnership, the workforce development board serving the Mid-Willamette Valley. We represent business, education, public workforce, and elected officials from Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties.

SB 523 could advance opportunities for expanding the healthcare workforce in Oregon by allowing community colleges to offer enhanced and expanded credentials in nursing. The option of community colleges to offer students the BSN degree would increase access to other nursing degrees across Oregon. Additionally, allowing community colleges to offer such programs will create affordable, and more equitable pathways for students to earn a degree in health care.

I am happy to answer any questions about this enthusiastic letter of support for this bill. Chemeketa Community College is a key partner in our region, and a critical training provider in the workforce development system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Kim Parker-Llerenas*

**Kim Parker-Llerenas**  
Executive Director