

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

FROM: Carla Upton

Current ADN Nursing Student at Oregon Coast Community College

Date: March 1, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

Hello, My name is Carla Upton, and I am a nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport. I am here today to urge your support of Senate Bill 523, which would allow community colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

I am a low-income student, going to school full-time. I work on weekends with a local in-home health company with seniors. I have five dogs and spend my time walking them in the woods and studying. Due to the high cost of BSN programs and the requirement to relocate away from my family, I would not obtain my BSN. I would love to stay in the program with the teachers I trust, gaining more opportunities for success without changing institutions. Staying with my current employer will enable me to support myself without relocating and finding a new job. In addition, I will be in a better financial situation to achieve my dream of owning a home. Having the opportunity to obtain my BSN at Oregon Coast Community College would expand the option so many people like me have the chance to get a bachelor's degree, to serve the local community that so badly needs local nurses. This would enable many students to be nurses and leaders without financial stress and location limitations.

Thank you for your time,

Carla Upton