

Date: March 1, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

My name is Whitley Spriggs 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 give community colleges the ability to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

I am a military wife, mother of two young children, and I currently work per diem at the Samaritan hospital in Newport as a pharmacy technician while I am currently working on my ADN.

Having the opportunity to earn my BSN at the community college where I earned my associate's degree in nursing will allow me to continue to build and utilize the existing relationships I have with the great instructors at Oregon Coast Community College, which would give me more opportunity for success. In the short time as a 1st year student, I look up to my instructors with high regard, and would love for my instructors to be a part of me obtaining my BSN.

I have a family, especially with my husband in the military, and moving to complete my BSN at another institution would be impossible for me to do. Allowing my local community college to offer a BSN program keeps me and my family at our current home where my husband is currently stationed with minimal disruption, but still afford me the opportunity to earn a higher degree.

I currently have a job that helps to support my family, so leaving my community to pursue a BSN at another institution would put my family in a very difficult financial situation. I would be unable to pursue a BSN and ultimately put my family into a better financial situation if I am not able to earn that BSN at my local community college. Keeping my current job near my local community college would mean that the team I work with would be able to keep me on the team. This would ensure I further my education that I could utilize at said job.

Having the opportunity to pursue a BSN at my local community college would expand the option for many students who are just like me to earn a higher degree to better serve our communities as nurses and leaders without the financial stress and location limitations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Whitley Spriggs OCCC nursing student