

My name is Kathy Nguyen and I am a nursing student at Clackamas Community College. 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 first-generation college student in my family consisting of four members that include my mom, dad, younger sister and I. My parents are both from Vietnam and came to the United States for better job opportunities. Currently, I am attending nursing school fulltime and working part time to pay off my tuition per term on a payment plan.

By having this opportunity to earn a BSN at a community college where I earned my associate's degree in nursing will allow me to leverage the existing relationships I have with the great instructors and peers at Clackamas Community College. In addition, this opportunity would allow many students who are just like me to earn a higher degree without the financial stress and location limitations.

As a nursing student at Clackamas Community College, I strongly support Senate Bill 523 since it involves the future for nursing students and nurses in Oregon.