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Education That Works

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

FROM: Dr. Tim Cook, President, Clackamas Community College

Date: March 2, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

Clackamas Community College fully supports Senate Bill 523 to create better and more equitable opportunities for students in Oregon through the development of RN to BSN degree at community colleges.

The development of this degree will increase access to 4-year nursing degrees across the state, provide more opportunities for promotion and higher pay, and create a lower cost option for students. Approving SB 523 will create opportunity for more equitable outcomes for underserved, often marginalized populations.

Also, a community college BSN helps address the nursing shortage by giving more students the credentials they need to continue to a master's degree (MSN), which is required to teach at the RN level. A shortage of nursing educators is one of the key chokepoints in the postsecondary nursing pipeline.

I am proud to be part of creating better educational opportunities for students in Oregon and urge you pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Cook

President, Clackamas Community College