

Submitter: Cathy Yasuda  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB523

Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon will be constructing a Nursing & Allied Health Professions Center within the next two years. This new building will replace our current facility which is small and outdated with a state-of-the-art 30,000 square feet space to accommodate increased enrollment and expansion of new healthcare programs. SB 523 will open the door to further expand the capacity for TVCC to enroll and graduate more highly skilled Nurses with their advanced BSN degree. Our TVCC Nursing currently graduates 25-32 Registered Nurses each year. Our new facility will give us the space and capacity to double those enrollment numbers. The passage of SB 523 will give our community college additional opportunities to increase access and affordability to under-served and under-represented students wanting to pursue a 4-year Nursing degree here in rural Eastern Oregon. Students with a BSN can command high pay and greater opportunity for promotion above an RN.

Our new facility and the opportunity to offer advanced training for Nursing students can help combat the crisis we are facing with not enough nurses and other healthcare staff. Please consider authorizing BSN degrees at community colleges who are positioned to provide the relevant and experienced instruction in both the RN and BSN programs of study.

Sixteen out of 17 Oregon community colleges already offer a two-year Associate Degree in Nursing and the one remaining community college in the state will soon have an ADN program. The next logical step is for these institutions to continue the advanced BSN program that will impact workforce and economic development throughout the State of Oregon.