

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

FROM: Chelsea Yeager

ADN Program Student Nurse, Klamath Community College

Date: March 2nd, 2023

RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Senators of the State Committee on Education:

You will hear from many the background and why they support or oppose SB 523 for various reasons. As a current nursing student at a Community College that is not able offer an RN to BSN program, it is essential to provide you with why there is support for SB 523 from a student standpoint.

I come from a familial background of high school graduate education levels and will be one of the first in my family to graduate from a college and receive a college degree. Although this is something that I am very proud of, an Associate's Degree is not the end of the road for me. While I am excited for the opportunities that having my ADN will afford me, I know that I want to pursue my Baccalaureate and potentially Master's degrees to warrant myself opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible with a lower level license.

As a 27-year-old nursing student, I look back on my journey into the nursing profession and I recognize that it is not as conventional as I would have hoped. I started my journey by obtaining my Certified Nursing Assistant certificate in California at a Vocational College in 2014. I worked as a CNA in settings such as long-term care, transitional care, rehabilitative care, psychiatric care, and acute care in a hospital setting. From there, I began pursuing education as a Licensed Vocational Nurse from the same Vocational College. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I moved out of California to Oregon and was unable to complete the LVN program. I transferred my CNA certificate to Oregon and have worked as a CNA in Oregon since June of 2019 in the hospital setting, as well as a Monitor Technician in the Emergency Department. Since I did not finish the LVN program and it was done at a Vocational College, my course work and transcripts were not transferable to Klamath Community College meaning I had to start my pre-requisite courses from the beginning. While this has been almost a 10-year journey for me, I would not change the steps I took to get to this moment.

The two-year ADN program offered at Klamath Community College has awarded me the opportunity to step foot into the healthcare system as a Registered Nurse well prepared and ready in a shorter manner of time than a straight-forward 4-year college BSN program would have been able to. I am excited to join the workforce of nurses here in our rural community and be of

assistance to the shortage of trained nurses we have here to serve our community. While I am ready to join this workforce, I still do have goals I would like to achieve and am fully intent on furthering my nursing education. My next goal after completing the ADN program would be to begin my baccalaureate degree and come back to Klamath Community College to assist as a Nursing Educator Associate. I currently have been looking into online RN to BSN programs that are offered and while I know that the education I would receive from this larger colleges would be sufficient, I am sad to not be able to continue my education from Klamath Community College.

My experience at Klamath Community College has been very beneficial. Our nursing program is a very tight knit group, and our instructors have a surplus of knowledge and experience to set future nurses up for success. My instructors and program administrators are people who I know are in my corner, people I can and have put my trust in because they have my best educational interests in mind. The Klamath Community College nursing program has cultivated a culture of accessible, quality education that the colleges mission aims at. I would be proud to come back to Klamath Community College to pursue an RN to BSN if this senate bill were passed. My hope is that the legislation will grant Community College's the opportunity to assist in furthering the education of their student's.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Yeager