



Administration

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AdventistHealthTillamook.org

Senate Higher Education Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE,
Salem, OR, 97301

RE: *Letter of Support – SB523 Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I am writing in full support of SB523 concerning the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

In 2019, SB3 gave community colleges the ability to offer applied baccalaureate (BAS) degrees if authorized by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). However, if colleges are to offer a bachelor-level component in nursing, further legislation is needed in order to call the nursing degree a BSN, which is the industry and regulator-recognized title, rather than a BAS-N, which is not recognized by employers and nursing boards.

- A community college option for earning a BSN degree would increase access to four-year nursing degrees across Oregon and particularly in rural areas.
- A student with a BSN has more opportunities for promotion and higher pay.
- Many community college RN graduates are paying more expensive out-of-state, online providers to attain a BSN. Local community college alternatives would provide a lower-cost option.
- At Chemeketa Community College, 100 out of 175 nursing graduates over the last five years did not go on to earn a BSN. If community colleges were able to offer the BSN, it would provide a valuable local option to RN graduates who are not pursuing the BSN to continue their education with familiar faculty, learning environments, student supports and - critically - a more affordable career pathway than currently exists.
- An RN-to-BSN program from a community college will provide the opportunity for more equitable outcomes for underserved, often marginalized populations, as education from community colleges is a more accessible, affordable option.

In a rural community like Tillamook County, access to higher education can be difficult for some students; the ability to achieve a BSN degree in our community would be invaluable for these students.

I urge you to sign on to SB523 and support higher level skills in a critical field.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Swanson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Swanson, MBA, FACHE, NRP
President
Adventist Health Tillamook