



1 March 2023

Oregon Coast Community College  
400 SE College Way  
Newport, OR 97366

Subject: SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees

Dear Legislator Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. Rural colleges often struggle to provide a plethora of opportunities for students to continue their educational progress-- the support for the passing of this Bill will provide further education and career opportunities for students. It would also help address local healthcare workforce needs.

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. All nursing programs that result in RN licensure require master's prepared nurse educators, which means that community college nursing faculty already have the credentials necessary to teach to the BSN.

In rural areas, where there are well-documented health care deserts-- having a viable local and affordable option for nursing students to obtain credentials and educationally advance is critical to meeting health care needs.

While it is true that clinical space is limited for nursing education programs, most of the bedside training in a hospital or other setting takes place in the first two years for the RN degree.

Please vote in favor of SB523- Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. Thank you for helping our students have greater educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Darci L. Adolf  
Director of Library & Media Services

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