



March 1, 2023

Dave Price
3788 SE High School Drive
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Subject: SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees

Dear Legislators:

This is to express my full support for **SB523**, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. Passage of this Bill will help address the profound access challenges that face would-be nurses in Lincoln County, a rural Oregon county with communities that deal with some of the most profound socioeconomic challenges in the state.

For many Lincoln County students, the financial cost of higher education is but one of many barriers; the hurdle presented by moving away to complete a four-year degree begun here at home on the Coast can be, quite literally, a bridge too far. Many of our students are parents and most deal with serious financial limitations. Making four-year BSN programs accessible here would yield a profound and immediate impact on our local community, not to mention local healthcare operations.

From a small-business perspective, this is critical. As we continue to wrestle with the impacts of the pandemic, Lincoln County's recovery is hampered by many factors. One way to speed improvement is to become an even more appealing destination for those workers who can choose to live almost anywhere, and those retirees who bring their investments and their expertise to their new communities. Neither of these groups is attracted to communities that struggle to staff and adequately operate their healthcare facilities. With the addition of the BSN to Oregon Coast's already rigorous and impressive lineup of career and technical education programs, Lincoln County would have the opportunity to build on the success of the College's impressive RN nursing program, and help us grow more of our own nurses and address head-on the issues of churn and recruitment that so many rural communities face with this crucial workforce.

Please support SB523- Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. We appreciate your interest and support of rural communities across the state.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Price".

Dave Price
Vice President, Engagement

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