

My name is Hannah Sherman, and I am a nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport. I am here today to urge your support of Senate Bill 523, which would give community colleges the ability to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. I am a student from a small town who relies on the ability to acquire an education from a community college solely because it is what I can afford. I have been working as a CNA for 6 years with the dream of pursuing a degree in nursing. I have had to work throughout school so that I am able to pay for school as well as living expenses. The program at Oregon Coast Community College allows students like me to have the opportunity to become an RN. Having the opportunity to pursue a BSN at my local community college would expand the option for many students who are just like me to earn a higher degree to better serve our communities as nurses and leaders without the financial stress and location limitations.

Having the opportunity to earn a BSN at the community college where I earned my associate's degree in nursing will allow me to leverage the existing relationships I have with the great instructors at Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC), which would give me more opportunity for success. One of the major reasons I chose to go to OCCC was because I was drawn to the supportive instructors and the overall positive atmosphere they provide. Nursing school is hard, emotionally, mentally, and physically, my instructors care so much about my success. The support they provided really pushes me to do my very best every day. If I were able to continue on with the support of these instructors, I truly believe that I will be able to obtain my BSN.

The coastal communities in Oregon need RN's. By being able to acquire my BSN through my local community college, I will be able to continue my education without having to make any grand changes in my life. I will be able to serve this community and encourage others that getting your BSN is possible. By supporting Senate Bill 523, you will provide many people with an opportunity that they were not sure they were going to be able to afford. I truly hope you will consider supporting this bill, as well as supporting the many students attending community colleges across our state.

Thank you,
Hannah Sherman