

Larry Boles  
760 NW Estate Drive  
Seal Rock, OR 97376

March 1, 2023

Subject: SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees

Dear Legislator:

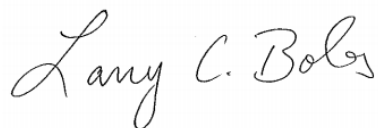
I am writing to express my support for SB523, Allowing Community Colleges to Confer BSN Degrees. I support the passing of this legislation because it will create further education and career opportunities for students in Lincoln and surrounding counties. Rural community colleges often struggle to provide pathways for students to continue their education. Bill523 would provide students the opportunity to earn a BSN degree locally and then pursue new career opportunities in their home area.

The passing of this bill will allow community colleges to offer a lower-cost option for RN graduates to further their academic endeavors. This will help RN graduates to stay and continue their academic journey in the same institution where they have fostered relationships with staff and peers, they will be familiar with the resources and learning environment setting. Importantly, it will allow them to earn a 4-year degree without the added financial burden of moving to larger urban areas where most of the BSN programs are found.

The approval of Bill523 would have a significant impact on the nursing and health profession shortages. This change will also open the door to opportunities for BSN Community College graduates to pursue additional credentials, certifications, and degrees. Rural Oregon suffers from “health care deserts” and Bill523 provides community colleges, especially rural colleges, the opportunity to begin to fill the health care gap in their communities. The effectiveness of community colleges in awarding certificates and degrees in the nursing field is well-documented and the passing of Bill523 will provide even greater opportunities for students to flourish academically and be better equipped to serve their community.

Thank you for helping our students access greater educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry C. Boles". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Larry C. Boles