



Lincoln County Health & Human Services

February 28, 2023

RE: Oregon Senate Bill 523

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to voice my support for Oregon Senate Bill 523 which would give community colleges the ability to convey Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Allowing community colleges to offer this advanced degree would have a beneficial impact on Lincoln County by:

- Increasing access to medical services by increasing the number of medical professionals living within our county. Currently, Lincoln County is ranked 27th out of 36 counties in Oregon for Health Outcomes according to the County Health Rankings. More nursing professionals would provide residents with more access to medical services and self-management education and support.
- Increasing the educational opportunities will provide more equitable outcomes for underserved, often marginalized populations within a county that experiences poverty at a greater rate than the state as a whole.
- Providing in-demand career training in a field that pays a living wage. In Lincoln County, RN wages start around \$64,000 per year which is more than the median household income within the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Romero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jayne Romero, MS, MPH
Director
Lincoln County Health & Human Services