



To whom it may concern:

My name is Carmen Ingulli and I have the distinct privilege of living in Bend, OR and working full-time at Central Oregon Community College as a nurse educator, transitioning to the role of Department Chair in the fall of 2023. I came to Central Oregon relatively recently, like so many others, seeking a culture and a community that best fit my family's needs. Thankfully, as a Registered Nurse with both a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Nursing, I had opportunities to work in the field of nursing both locally and remotely. The opportunities my advanced degrees and experience gave me and my family is at the forefront of my mind as I write to you **in full support of SB 523**.

As I look to the future of nursing, I see nurses seeking options that enable them to stay in the profession and connect with their communities on a larger scale. I see practicing nurses who indicate they would like to explore leadership roles, including nursing education, but are deterred by the process of obtaining a BSN. It is imperative for as many nurses as possible to earn their BSN and to have more professional options for long-term retention, job satisfaction, and contribution to society.

Central Oregon Community College graduates a cohort of up to 56 nurses each spring. We are expanding our program to a branch in Madras which will graduate a cohort of up to 8 students to start. Of these new graduates, many who would like to continue on to earn their BSN do not, largely due to lack of access to programs, intimidation of larger institutions, and cost.

We are at a point where Oregon needs to increase accessibility and provide options for our highly-valued and much needed nurses. My prior experience as nursing faculty in BSN degree programs as well as RN-BSN programs gives me clear insight into the development and implementation of the RN to BSN program. Central Oregon, and other rural areas where community colleges reside, need BSN prepared nurses. Our community partners are calling for this. **Please support SB 523** and allow us to better our nurses, better our communities, and better our health outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration,

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