



CENTRAL OREGON
community college
NURSING

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Kristin Lambert. I am a Registered Nurse employed by Central Oregon Community College and teach full-time in the Nursing Program. I currently teach 2nd year (advanced) students and have served as program director prior to stepping down to pursue my PhD in Nursing Education. With an extensive background in nursing education and involvement in curriculum work, **I am in full support of SB 523.**

As a community college educator, I know how important it is to educate and retain our students in the community after graduation. With an increase in new graduate residencies, more COCC nursing students are able to stay locally and practice in the community they were educated. Having the ability to pursue their BSN through COCC would likely increase the number of practicing BSNs employed locally. The COCC nursing program has high attrition and high NCLEX-RN pass rates, over 90% and 89% respectively in recent years. These high numbers speak to the quality of education the ADN students at COCC receive. COCC graduates report high rates of new graduate job placement as well.

Having the opportunity to continue their education where they live is also more cost efficient for these students as opposed to paying out of state tuition costs to pursue a BSN online. Offering more affordable options for advanced degrees would also increase the chance it would be pursued.

Having a BSN not only opens up opportunities for nurses in practice such as higher pay and promotion, but allows them to pursue graduate degrees in the future. With the nursing shortage, both at the bedside and in education, increasing graduate degree enrollment is crucial to the future of nursing.

Please consider **supporting SB 523** to allow our nursing graduates to pursue a BSN in the community they live and work.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Lambert".

Kristin Lambert, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor II
COCC Nursing Department

