

TO: Oregon House of Representatives
FROM: Jamie Holm
Current ADN Nursing Student, Oregon Coast Community College
Date: April 24, 2023
RE: Support for SB 523

Dear Oregon House of Representatives Members,

As a current nursing student at Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC), it is important to me that I provide you with reasons why I am in support of SB 523 and how that would positively impact my education as well as those within the community.

Lack of clinical space. The opposing side has explained that there is a lack of clinical support. While this has been an issue for some RN and BSN programs in Oregon, it will not come into play with the bridge program. This is because the RN to BSN bridge program does not require clinical hours. This means that I will have met all clinical hours prior to getting accepted into the RN to BSN bridge program. Therefore, nullifying the concern of clinical space for this program.

I am Currently, in Newport, Oregon attending OCCC and I also live in Bend, Oregon where Central Oregon Community College is located, we currently do not have a school that offers an RN to BSN bridge, in either of these local schools. This means that to further my career, I would have to enroll in a college outside of these areas to obtain a BSN. This means that I would be leaving the support of the instructors and peers that I currently have at OCCC. Being able to pursue my BSN at Oregon Coast Community College or Central Oregon Community College would mean that I would have support from peers and instructors while obtaining my BSN, and be I would be able to live with my family rather than having to travel away from home. It also means that if at any point I needed assistance with an assignment. I would be able to go to my local college for assistance. I believe that having this assistance available aids in the success in the program. After getting my ASN I would like to work in the local hospital in the ER or Labor and Delivery unit. I would have a better chance of obtaining a position right away into one of these departments if I was able to complete more education and obtain my BSN.

If I was able to complete the RN to BSN bridge program at a Community College it would significantly reduce the cost of education and reduce a barrier that might keep many people from furthering their education. This means that more affordable and accessible education it would increase the number of BSNs in our communities.

I have looked into a few different online programs where I could obtain my BSN; however, I would prefer to have a place locally where I could attend school, and be able

to communicate with my instructors in person, and also interact with other students, as I feel this enhances the learning environment.

Attending a local Community College to obtain my BSN would be more affordable, than a University. I would be able to live at home with my husband and children and work part-time as an ASN while attending the local Community College to obtain my BSN.

I currently attend OCCC in Newport as that is the school I was accepted into; I live in Central Oregon. It is so competitive to get into nursing school, so some of us have to travel to a place where we get accepted. I can't say it has been easy having to travel so far away from home, but it has been worth it. If a Community College in Central Oregon offered a BSN program I would apply right after completing my ASN, and if I had to travel to Newport again to obtain my BSN I would do that as well. It's important for me to have options to further my education and full fill my dream of getting my BSN. My experience at OCCC has been nothing but amazing, the professors are wonderful, I feel very supported and could not be happier about my choice to attend school at OCCC, and it would be a privilege to attend OCCC if they were able to offer a BSN program.

Thank you, Jamie Holm