



Health Professions Division

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 523

Dr. Jennifer Tavernier Director of Nursing Lane Community College

House Committee on Higher Education

My name is Jennifer Tavernier, I am the Director of Nursing at Lane Community College, and I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 523.

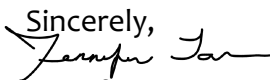
In 1965, the IOM recommended that entry level nursing be the BSN and employers have since indicated a preference for the BSN, especially if seeking Magnet Status.

A community college option for earning an RN to BSN degree would provide more equitable and affordable opportunities for students. Many community college students are first generation college students, English language learners, or students of underrepresented groups who would benefit greatly from a pathway to a BSN on their community college campus where they can continue to learn with familiar faculty, learning environments, and student supports. This increase in access to the BSN will increase the number of bachelor prepared nurses in the community who may then continue their education at the graduate level, which will prepare them as nurse leaders, nurse educators, and advanced practice nurses, where they will contribute greatly to the growth of the nursing profession.

In a survey of 2022 graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing program at LCC, 95% of respondents indicated that they would continue with an RN to BSN degree on the LCC campus if it were offered. Currently, almost half of them are attending RN to BSN programs outside of the state of Oregon.

Community colleges already have the capacity to offer the RN to BSN program. An RN to BSN program does not require clinical training, so it will not find a shortfall of or create competition for clinical sites, and LCC, as well as many other ADN programs in the state already have a number of master's prepared nurse educators, which means that community college nursing faculty already have the credentials necessary to teach to the BSN.

Please support Senate Bill 523. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tavernier