

Date: May 2, 2023

RE: Support for HB 3324

Dear Senator Steiner,

I am writing to advocate for additional funding for nursing education.

Community Colleges lead the way for equitable educational opportunities and social mobility. We support access to success for all students and provide a social justice framework critical to addressing the systemic racism within our healthcare system. Nursing Programs play a key role in transforming the future of healthcare and we need to find collaborative ways to increase the salary of Nursing Faculty.

Please consider supporting House Bill 3324, “The Oregon Health Authority shall establish the Nurse Educator Workforce Stipend Program to provide incentives to increase the recruitment and retention of nursing program faculty members, including nurse educators, nurse educator associates, adjunct faculty, and nursing program administrators, at accredited institutions of postsecondary education in this state.”

Working in collaboration with the Nurse Administrator, we (administration) have identified a number of ways to provide support for our current and new Nursing Faculty. For example, creating a Part-time faculty pool, new and appropriate lead faculty positions (Clinical, Simulation, and Lab) and developed a robust on-boarding and training protocol for all new Nurse Faculty hires (e.g., clinical faculty, instructional, full-time, part-time).

Increasing the salary and paying for non-instructional work required by Nursing Faculty would be a critical step towards sustaining high quality Nursing Education. We will always need Nurses within our hospitals, communities, and schools. It starts with Nursing Programs providing skilled graduates. Paying Nurse Educators, a fraction of what graduating students will make at beside is insulting.

Please help to provide the path forward with passing House Bill 3324.

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