



Agenda Item 8.8.6

**Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of
substantive changes to an approved program
(16 CCR §§ 1426 & 1432) (present)**

West Coast University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

BRN Education/Licensing Committee | October 5, 2023



August 9, 2023

Dear Members of the California Board of Registered Nursing,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Riverside Community Hospital. We support West Coast University's ("WCU") application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment. Nearly 30% of the new nurses employed at Riverside Community Hospital are WCU grads. I have found that WCU students receive excellent academic preparation and clinical instruction, and upon graduation, these students easily transition into nurses who are ready to serve patients and have a passion for the nursing profession.

While the shortage of nurses is a concern for the entire state of California, it is also a regional concern for Riverside County. Riverside County is currently designated on the Registered Nurse Shortage Area (RNSA) by the California Healthcare Workforce Policy Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Riverside County will see a 15.5% increase in the demand for nurses in the next year. Because of the severe shortage of registered nurses in Riverside County, it is imperative to our community's health and well-being to maintain or increase the number of nursing students graduating from well-regarded institutions like WCU. Decreasing WCU student enrollments would be detrimental to patient safety at our hospital and devastating to California's nursing workforce pipeline overall.

For these reasons, we urge the California Board of Registered Nursing to allow WCU to maintain its current student enrollment to allow for continued stability in California's nursing workforce pipeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Annette Greenwood'.

Annette Greenwood, BSN, MHA, RNC
Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer

Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life.

4445 Magnolia Avenue | Riverside, CA 92501 | RiversideCommunityHospital.com

August 7, 2023

California Board of Registered Nursing
P.O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

Dear California Board of Registered Nursing:

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center (HPMC) is a clinical partner to West Coast University (WCU), and we support WCU's application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment capacity. HPMC relies on WCU as an essential provider of new graduate nurses, and WCU alumni have proven to be well-prepared for the nursing profession. To be sure, HPMC has hired over 70 WCU graduates over the past three years.

As you know, experienced nurses are retiring and leaving the workforce faster than nursing graduates can replace them. As a result, community hospitals like ours continue to face nursing workforce challenges, while many prospective nursing students are being turned away from nursing programs across the state because of capacity limitations. WCU is a primary source of Southern California's nursing workforce, and any decrease in student enrollment will worsen workforce challenges for all healthcare organizations, including HPMC.

Another important aspect to HPMC's nursing workforce is ensuring diversity and closing the gaps of inequity in healthcare. By 2030, communities of color will make up over 65% of California's population, yet they are severely underrepresented in the healthcare workforce and educational pipeline.¹ Nearly 80% of WCU's student body identifies as persons of color, which shows that WCU is a lifeline for student access. Many of the hospitals that WCU partners with for student clinical experiences and new graduate employment, including HPMC, are community-based hospitals that serve diverse populations, including lower socioeconomic communities. Decreasing WCU's student enrollment capacity has the potential to perpetuate underrepresentation in the healthcare workforce.

Overall, any reduction in WCU's student enrollment will have widespread negative effects on the statewide nursing shortage and will hinder efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in the healthcare industry.

Sincerely,



Nate Mabry
Chief Operating Officer

¹ <https://futurehealthworkforce.org/our-work/finalreport/>, California Future Health Workforce Commission, Meeting the Demand for Health, published February 2019.



August 9, 2023

To the California Board of Registered Nursing,

Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is one of thirteen children's hospitals in California and the only children's hospital system in Orange County, CA. CHOC supports West Coast University's application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment. As the second largest provider of BSN-educated nurses in California, WCU is an essential source of the nursing workforce across CHOC's network.

CHOC hires WCU graduates because they are well-equipped to care for our patients and their families. An added benefit of WCU's BSN program is that approximately 80% of WCU students identify as people of color. CHOC serves a diverse population across Southern California, and as part of our efforts to diversify the workforce, we recognize that WCU students and alumni have the ability to positively impact patient health through their cultural competencies and excellent academic preparation.

Given the competitive nature of recruiting nurses, decreasing enrollment for WCU students will limit CHOC's ability to staff its facilities and will immediately impact the current nursing shortage in California. Additionally, any decrease of WCU student enrollment may also have the unintended effect of limiting academic options for students of color.

We request that the Board allow WCU to maintain its current student enrollment to ensure that the supply of high-quality nurses does not further decrease as the nursing workforce shortage continues to worsen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Patterson".

Melanie Patterson, DNP, MHA, RN
Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer



Date: August 10, 2023

1711 W Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

Dear Members of the California BRN,

I am writing this letter on behalf of L.A. Downtown Medical Center. Our 269 inpatient hospital beds provide care for a culturally diverse population at two campuses in Los Angeles County. We support West Coast University's application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment. On average, our hospitals hire 12 WCU new graduates Annually. In our experience, WCU alumni are well-prepared to enter the nursing profession through thorough academic preparation and clinical instruction, and upon graduation, these students easily transition into nurses who are ready to serve patients and are committed to the nursing profession. Our support for WCU is two-fold: to ensure a steady supply of nurses to our facilities and to ensure diversity in the workforce.

Adequate nurse-to-patient ratios are key to ensuring the safety of California patients. WCU's BSN program is a vital part of improving both access to and the quality of medical care. Decreasing WCU student enrollments would be detrimental to patient safety and devastating to California's nursing workforce pipeline overall.

In keeping with our commitment to our employees, providers, patients, visitors, and communities we serve, L.A. Downtown Medical Center integrates diversity into all aspects of our operations, including workforce development. The majority of WCU students are people of color and we believe that this diversity enhances cultural competencies throughout our organization and enriches the care that our patients will receive.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the California Board of Registered Nursing to allow WCU to maintain its current student enrollment to allow for continued stability in California's nursing workforce pipeline.

Sincerely,



Arlene Rodriguez,

Human Resource

August 10, 2023

Dear Members of the California Board of Registered Nursing,

This letter is written in support of West Coast University's application to maintain its current student enrollment, which is anticipated to be on the California Board of Registered Nursing agenda for consideration during the BRN meetings in October and November.

We continue to face nursing workforce challenges and WCU is an essential source of nurses for Montclair Hospital Medical Center's nursing workforce. Decreasing WCU current student enrollments would be devastating to our hospital's workforce pipeline and would have widespread negative effects on the statewide nursing shortage. We urge the Board of Registered Nursing to support WCU's enrollment stability, which significantly contributes to the nursing workforce in the San Bernardino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janaya Beene-Eggert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Janaya Beene-Eggert, MSN, RN

Chief Nursing Officer



August 10, 2023

Dear Members of the California Board of Registered Nursing,

I am writing this letter in support of West Coast University in maintaining their current student enrollment. With the increasing need for registered nurses across the nation and the Coachella Valley, it is imperative that West Coast University continues to provide our region with qualified candidates to care for the increasing volume and acuity of patients in our community hospitals.

Desert Regional Medical Center is a 385-bed facility that offers potential clinical RNs a wealth of clinical experience. As a Level I Trauma Center, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Bariatric Center of Excellence, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Chest Pain Center and Comprehensive Cancer Center, Desert Regional Medical Center is the premiere facility at which students can gain valuable experience. Desert Regional Medical Center is poised to support all the medical needs of the Coachella Valley and beyond.

Because of the severe shortage of registered nurses in Riverside County, it is imperative to our communities' health and well-being that West Coast University is able to maintain its current student enrollment to address the increased demand for registered nurses in our area. West Coast University has been an excellent partner in providing Desert Regional Medical Center with highly qualified new graduate nurses to fill our many vacant positions. I am confident that we are able to provide nursing clinical rotations for West Coast University and other nursing institutions in our area. I greatly appreciate your consideration to maintain West Coast University's current student enrollment to allow for continued stability in California's nursing workforce pipeline.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Morey".

Scott D. Morey, MBA, BSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer – Desert Regional Medical Center
Group Chief Nursing Officer – Desert Care Network
Scott.Morey@tenethealth.com
(760) 323-6361



*The Heart of a
Healthy Community™*

8/10/2023

Dear Members of the California Board of Registered Nursing:

I write in support of West Coast University's ("WCU") application to maintain its current student enrollment, which is anticipated to be on the California Board of Registered Nursing agenda for consideration during the October Education Licensure Committee meeting and subsequently at the November Board meeting.

WCU has been a longtime partner of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The WCU graduates are well-prepared for the nursing workforce, and we have several alumni employed here.

WCU is an essential source of nurses for Arrowhead Regional Medical Center's nursing workforce. Any rollback of WCU current student enrollments would be devastating to our hospital's workforce pipeline and would significantly impact the quality of patient care at our hospital. We urge the Board of Registered Nursing to support WCU's enrollment stability, which is contributing greatly to nursing workforce in the Inland Empire.

Sincerely,


Nanette Buenavidez

Chief Nursing Officer

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fifth District

LEONARD X. HERNANDEZ
Chief Executive Officer

 Encino Hospital Medical Center
 Sherman Oaks Hospital

 Prime Healthcare
Surgical Center of the Valley

August 15, 2023

Dear Members of the California Board of Registered Nursing,

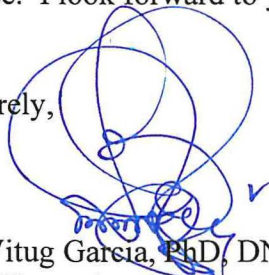
I am writing this letter on behalf of Encino Hospital Medical Center and Sherman Oaks Hospital. We support West Coast University's ("WCU") application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment. On average, our hospitals hire over 30 WCU graduates each year. We have found that WCU students receive excellent academic preparation and clinical instruction, and upon graduation, these students easily transition into nurses who are ready to serve patients and are committed to the nursing profession.

As the community disease index increases and becomes more complex, educating future nurses is paramount to solving this emerging and urgent issue in healthcare. Adequate nurse-to-patient ratios are key to ensuring the safety of California patients. WCU's BSN program is a vital part of improving both access to and the quality of medical care. Decreasing WCU student enrollments would be detrimental to patient safety at our hospital and devastating to California's nursing workforce pipeline overall.

Because of the severe shortage of registered nurses in Los Angeles County, it is imperative to our communities' health and well-being to maintain or increase the number of nursing students graduating from well-regarded institutions like WCU. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, by 2030, California is estimated to have the largest nursing shortage in the nation, needing an additional 193,000 nurses to meet patient care needs. By all accounts, California is in desperate need of nurses now and will continue into the foreseeable future. For these reasons, we urge the California Board of Registered Nursing to allow WCU to maintain its current student enrollment to allow for continued stability in California's nursing workforce pipeline.

I support the Board's mission; and I share your vision to make California safe. As I continue to lead hundreds of registered nurses in Los Angeles County to serve the health care needs of our communities, it is my fervent hope that the Board considers the continuing demand for highly educated and skilled registered nurses that WCU produces. Thank you for your commitment and service. I look forward to your favorable decision in support of our nurses and communities.

Sincerely,



EM Vitug Garcia, PhD, DNP, DHEd, APRN, NP-C, CNOR, CSSM, FIAAN, FACLNC
Chief Executive Officer
Phone: (818) 907-4540
e-Mail: emgarcia@primehealthcare.com

Date: 8/7/2023

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Orange
1100 W Stewart Dr.
Orange, CA 92868

Dear California Board of Registered Nursing,

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Orange (PSJH) is a clinical partner to West Coast University (WCU), and we support WCU's application with the California Board of Registered Nursing to maintain its current student enrollment capacity. PSJH relies on WCU as an essential provider of new graduate nurses, and WCU alumni have proven to be well-prepared for the nursing profession.

As you know, experienced nurses are retiring and leaving the workforce faster than nursing graduates can replace them. As a result, community hospitals like ours continue to face nursing workforce challenges, while many prospective nursing students are being turned away from nursing programs across the state because of capacity limitations. WCU is a primary source of Southern California's nursing workforce, and any decrease in student enrollment will worsen workforce challenges for all healthcare organizations, including PSJH.

Another important aspect to PSJH'S nursing workforce is ensuring diversity and closing the gaps of inequity in healthcare. By 2030, communities of color will make up over 65% of California's population, yet they are severely underrepresented in the healthcare workforce and educational pipeline.¹ Nearly 80% of WCU's student body identifies as persons of color, which shows that WCU is a lifeline for student access. Many of the hospitals that WCU partners with for student clinical experiences and new graduate employment, including PSJH, are community-based hospitals that serve diverse populations, including lower socioeconomic communities. Decreasing WCU's student enrollment capacity has the potential to perpetuate underrepresentation in the healthcare workforce.

Overall, any reduction in WCU's student enrollment will have widespread negative effects on the statewide nursing shortage and will hinder efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in the healthcare industry.

Sincerely,



Michelle Genova, DNP, NEA-BC

Chief Nursing Officer

¹ <https://futurehealthworkforce.org/our-work/finalreport/>, California Future Health Workforce Commission, Meeting the Demand for Health, published February 2019.

California Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Dear Members of the California Board of Nursing:

This letter is to confirm the support for the RN program at West Coast University (WCU). We are currently a clinical site for nursing students enrolled at WCU and have hired their nurse graduates to work at our hospitals.

There are many employment opportunities for Registered Nursing graduates within the Los Angeles County and throughout our state. California needs nurses now and this need will continue into the foreseeable future. WCU's commitment to developing high-quality nurses is essential for the long-term stability of the nurse workforce. The severe shortage in this County, highlights the importance and need for well-regarded institutions like WCU to continue its current student enrollment to allow for continued stability in California's nursing workforce pipeline.

Sincerely,

Anabel Rodriguez

Anabel Rodriguez

AVP of Academic Affairs for HCA Far West Division

Anabel.Rodriguez@HCAHealthcare.com

(702)961-0054



August 25, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

We write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to maintain its existing annual enrollment of 220 core nursing students each term (five terms per year) of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for each of its California campuses, located in Anaheim, Ontario, and Los Angeles. We understand this item is anticipated to be on the agenda for consideration during the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and November 2023 Board of Registered Nursing full meeting.


Each of our communities are uniquely affected by California's critical healthcare workforce needs and it is imperative actions are taken to ensure a sufficient pipeline of nursing students and graduates. By all known measurements, WCU is a one of the State's top nursing schools and has a proven track record of producing highly sought after nursing graduates. Whether one looks at graduation rates, placement rates, default rates or NCLEX passage rates, it's clear WCU is providing students the resources necessary to be successful. Also, 80% of the WCU student body identifies as diverse, therefore greatly contributing to our state's strives to address healthcare inequities.


WCU graduates are filling critical nursing roles in our constituencies that support the funding and policy priorities set forth by Governor Newsom and the legislature, including addressing shortages in care for the opioid crisis, access to behavioral health services and meeting the needs of our aging population. WCU students train in these areas and graduates are working in Community hospitals, Psychiatric hospitals, as public health nurses and many more positions that align with the State's priorities.

It is imperative that WCU maintain its enrollment so that access to care is expanded. We strongly urge you to support West Coast University's application to maintain its current enrollment patterns.

Sincerely,


Assemblemember Heath Flora (Co-Chair)


Assemblemember Carlos Villapudua
(Co-Chair)


Senator Josh Newman (Co-Chair)


Senator Scott Wilk (Co-Chair)

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COMMITTEES
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

August 30, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

RE: Maintaining Existing Annual Enrollment for California Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) Programs

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

It has come to my attention the Education Licensure Committee will be reviewing annual enrollment for select Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs during their October 2023 hearing. I am respectfully requesting the Licensure Committee and Board at-large maintain and approve, at minimum, the existing annual enrollment patterns for all programs seeking approval.

The State has continuously highlighted its efforts supporting our nursing programs as evidenced through the continuous engagement of both the Legislature and Administration. California's robust nursing education system is a model to the rest of the nation and continues to produce some of the most qualified nursing professionals worldwide. Unfortunately, the State continues to project a significant deficit in workforce supply amidst the continued stresses on the healthcare system. According to the Hospital Association of Southern California, nursing vacancy rates among local hospitals exceed 30%.¹ Prior to the pandemic, the average vacancy rate was 6%. As noted in the Board's own research report from August 2022, many older RNs have left nursing, and many continue to look to leave or retire in the coming years.² Similarly, the 2023 survey reveals since 2021, RN career satisfaction and the percentage of nurses who are likely to encourage others to enter the nursing field have dropped, while feelings of burnout have risen.³ This leaves California in a perilous situation of a declining workforce compounded by constituencies with increasing need.

It is imperative swift and reasonable actions are taken to ensure a sufficient pipeline of nursing students and graduates. At minimum, Universities must maintain their existing enrollment so access to care does not suffer. I strongly urge you to support any University's application to maintain its current enrollment patterns and further seek to increase placements at qualified institutions to meet the needs of our state.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio, 48th District

1. <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/08/09/california-needs-thousands-of-nurses-but-leaders-cant-agree-on-how-to-fill-jobs#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Hospital%20Association,gotten%20worse%2C%22%20Hooks%20said.>
2. <https://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/forms/forecast2022.pdf>
3. <https://www.amnhealthcare.com/siteassets/amn-insights/surveys/amn-rnsurvey-2023-final.pdf>

BER:dlf

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Assemblymember.Quirk-Silva@assembly.ca.gov



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EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND REPRESENTATION
STATE PARKS

JOINT COMMITTEES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

September 1, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

I write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to maintain its existing annual enrollment of 220 core nursing students each term (five terms per year) of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for each of its California campuses, located in Anaheim, Ontario, and Los Angeles. This is anticipated to be on the agenda for consideration during the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and November 2023 Board of Registered Nursing full meeting.

WCU was established in 1909 and is well known for its preeminent academics and as California's largest provider of BSN educated nurses outside of the CSU system. WCU's strong record of accomplishment of excellence in BSN nurse preparation is evident with a current campus-wide 93.6% first-time NCLEX pass rate (BRN Quarter 4, 2023), employable graduates earning over \$100,000 annually, and an exceptionally low federal loan cohort default rate of 0.1%. In addition, 80% of the WCU student body identifies as diverse, therefore greatly contributing to our state's strives to address healthcare inequities. Many of the students live in multi-generational families, speak a second language and chose WCU rather than to hold their future while on a waitlist.

WCU graduates are filling critical nursing roles in our constituencies that support the funding and policy priorities set forth by Governor Newsom and the legislature. The 2023-2024 Budget Act invested \$988.4 million in total funding (\$188.8 million in 2022-23, \$314.7 million in 2023-24, \$427.3 million in 2024-25, and \$57.5 million in 2025- towards addressing shortages in care for the opioid crisis, access to behavioral health services and meeting the needs of our aging population. WCU students train in all of these areas and graduates are working in Community hospitals, Psychiatric hospitals, as public health nurses and many more positions that that align with Governor Newsom and the legislature's funding priorities.

It is imperative that WCU maintain its enrollment so that access to care is expanded. For this, and the reasons above, we urge you to support this application.

Sincerely,

Sharon Quirk-Silva

SHARON QUIRK-SILVA
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 67th DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES
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BANKING AND FINANCE
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AND THE ECONOMY
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
REVENUE AND TAXATION

SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: GREEN INNOVATION AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

31 August 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

RE: West Coast University Application – SUPPORT

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

I write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to enroll 220 core nursing students each term (five terms per year) of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for each of its Southern California campuses, located in Anaheim, Ontario, and Los Angeles. I understand this item is anticipated to be on the agenda for consideration during the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and the November 2023 Board of Registered Nursing full meeting.

As the representative for the 73rd Assembly District, located in Orange County, I am very familiar with the relationship between West Coast University and the healthcare facilities in my region. The school has a strong reputation for graduating students who are competent and diverse, and it maintains facilities, faculty, and clinical partners necessary for ensuring its students' success. That is clear when looking at the school's graduation rates, NCLEX passage rates, placements rates, and default rates.

Throughout my time in the Legislature, I have heard regularly about the healthcare workforce challenges that plague the state. The pandemic has exacerbated the problem, thus contributing to nurses retiring and/or experiencing burnout. I applaud West Coast University for helping meet California's healthcare workforce needs and strongly recommend the Board of Registered Nursing support the West Coast University application.

Any enrollment figure below 220 per start will only limit nursing education opportunities for my constituents. Additionally, West Coast University has hundreds of employees throughout Orange County. Any reduction in students will logically lead to a reduction in the school's own workforce, causing further challenges in Orange County. Thank you for taking the time to consider the impact of this important decision on my district and the Southern California region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Petrie-Norris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Cottie Petrie-Norris
Assemblywoman, 73rd District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS J. UMBERG

THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
CHAIR
ELECTIONS AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
HOUSING
MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
TRANSPORTATION

September 12, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

I write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to maintain its existing annual enrollment of 220 core nursing students each term (five terms per year) of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for each of its California campuses, located in Anaheim, Ontario, and Los Angeles. This is anticipated to be on the agenda for consideration during the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and November 2023 Board of Registered Nursing full meeting.

WCU was established in 1909 and is well known for its preeminent academics and as California's largest provider of BSN educated nurses outside of the CSU system. WCU's strong track record of excellence in BSN nurse preparation is evident with a current campus-wide 93.6% first-time NCLEX pass rate (BRN Quarter 4, 2023), employable graduates earning over \$100,000 annually, and an exceptionally low federal loan cohort default rate of 0.1%. Also, 80% of the WCU student body identifies as diverse, therefore greatly contributing to our state's strives to address healthcare inequities. Many of the students live in multi-generational families, speak a second language and chose WCU rather than to hold their future while on a waitlist.

WCU graduates are filling critical nursing roles in our constituencies that support the funding and policy priorities set forth by Governor Newsom and the legislature. The 2023-2024 Budget Act invested \$988.4 million in total funding (\$188.8 million in 2022-23, \$314.7 million in 2023-24, \$427.3 million in 2024-25, and \$57.5 million in 2025- towards addressing shortages in care for the opioid crisis, access to behavioral health services and meeting the needs of our aging population.¹ WCU students train in all of these areas and graduates are working in Community hospitals, Psychiatric hospitals, as public health nurses and many more positions that that align with Governor Newsom and the legislature's funding priorities. It is imperative that WCU maintain its enrollment so that access to care is expanded. For this, and the reasons above, we urge you to support this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Umberg".

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TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR, POLICE REFORM
CHAIR, PORTS AND GOODS
MOVEMENT

September 19, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

RE: Annual Enrollment for California Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing Programs

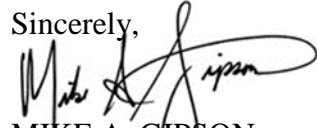
Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

It has come to my attention the Education Licensure Committee will be reviewing annual enrollment for select Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs during their October 2023 hearing. In light of the ongoing nursing shortage in California, I respectfully request that the Licensure Committee and the Board at large consider and approve appropriate enrollment levels that take this pressing issue into account.

The shortage of qualified nursing professionals in our state has reached an alarming level, posing a significant threat to the delivery of healthcare services to our communities. Various factors, including an aging population, increased healthcare demands, and the enduring challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated this shortage. As we all know, nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system, providing essential care, comfort, and expertise to patients across various healthcare settings.

The BSN programs in California are crucial in addressing this pressing healthcare challenge. These programs are designed to equip aspiring nurses with the knowledge, skills, and clinical experience they need to excel in their roles. I fully recognize the need for rigorous evaluation and oversight of educational programs to maintain the high standards of nursing education in our state. I respectfully request that the Education Licensure Committee and the Board at large take a compassionate and forward-thinking approach when determining appropriate enrollment levels for Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing programs. By doing so, we can take substantial strides toward resolving the nursing shortage crisis and ensuring the well-being of our fellow Californians.

I thank you for your dedication to upholding the highest standards of nursing education and for your unwavering commitment to the health and prosperity of our state.

Sincerely,

MIKE A. GIPSON
Assemblymember, 65th AD

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5064
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4003
FAX (916) 651-4903

California State Senate

BILL DODD

SENATOR, THIRD DISTRICT



CHAIR: SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY
CO-CHAIR

September 18, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd, Suite #150
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members:

I am writing in support of the West Coast University application to maintain its existing yearly enrollment of 220 core nursing students for its Baccalaureate of Science Nursing program at their three California campuses in Southern California. I have been advised that consideration of this request has been agendaized for the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and the November Board of Registered Nursing full committee meeting.

Like many states, California has a shortage of quality nurses. Such a shortage can lead to staffing challenges which, in turn, can lead to a lower quality of care for patients. This is something we all need to work to address.

West Coast University is one of the largest nursing schools in our state. They educate a highly skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for care. It is imperative that West Coast University be able to maintain its enrollment so that access to care is not negatively impacted in my 3rd Senate District and around our great state.

I urge your support of the West Coast University application to maintain its current enrollment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Dodd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Dodd
Senator, District 3

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0053
(916) 319-2053
FAX (916) 319-2153

DISTRICT OFFICE
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CHINO, CA 91710
(909) 902-9606
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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
HEALTH
INSURANCE
CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAIRS
ALLOCATION AND CLASSICATION

September 25, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924
RE: Maintaining Annual Enrollment for West Coast University

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

I write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to maintain its annual enrollment of 220 core nursing students for each term of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. As a representative of its Ontario campus with 260 students in my district, I am well familiar with WCU's critical role in keeping my district healthy.

WCU is well known for its preeminent academics and as California's largest provider of BSN-educated nurses outside of the CSU system. WCU's strong track record of excellence in BSN nurse preparation is evident with a current campus-wide 93.6% first-time NCLEX pass rate (BRN Quarter 4, 2023), employable graduates earning over \$100,000 annually, and an exceptionally low federal loan cohort default rate of 0.1%. 80% of the WCU student body identifies as diverse, significantly contributing to our state's efforts to address healthcare inequities.

WCU graduates are filling critical nursing roles, with 260 students in my district, that support the funding and policy priorities Governor Newsom and the legislature set. Graduates receive a high income and make a large impact on the regional economy. They often work in community and psychiatric hospitals as public health nurses. It is imperative that WCU maintain its enrollment so that Californians have high access to quality care. For these reasons, I urge you to support this application.

Sincerely,

FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assemblymember, 53rd District
Chair, Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

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FAX (310) 412-6125

SAN PEDRO DISTRICT OFFICE
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SUITE 203
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731
TEL (310) 514-8573

SENATOR.BRADFORD@SENATE.CA.GOV
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California State Senate

SENATOR
STEVEN BRADFORD
THIRTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
ENERGY, UTILITIES
AND COMMUNICATIONS
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING & FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 20, 2023

Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Dear Board of Registered Nursing Members,

I write in support of West Coast University's (WCU) application to maintain its existing annual enrollment of 220 core nursing students each term of its Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for each of its California campuses, located in Anaheim, Ontario, and Los Angeles. This is anticipated to be on the agenda for consideration during the October 2023 Education Licensure Committee meeting and November 2023 Board of Registered Nursing full meeting.

WCU was established in 1909 and is well known for its preeminent academics and as California's largest provider of BSN educated nurses outside of the CSU system. WCU's strong track record of excellence in BSN nurse preparation is evident with a current campus-wide 93.6% first-time NCLEX pass rate (BRN Quarter 4, 2023), employable graduates earning over \$100,000 annually, and an exceptionally low federal loan cohort default rate of 0.1%. Also, 80% of the WCU student body identifies as diverse, therefore greatly contributing to our state's goals to address healthcare inequities. Many of the students live in multi-generational families, speak a second language and chose WCU rather than put their future on hold while on a waitlist.

WCU graduates are filling critical nursing roles in our constituencies that support the funding and policy priorities set forth by Governor Newsom and the Legislature. The 2023-2024 Budget Act invested \$988.4 million in total funding (\$188.8 million in 2022-23, \$314.7 million in 2023-24, \$427.3 million in 2024-25, and \$57.5 million in 2025) towards addressing shortages in care for the opioid crisis, access to behavioral health services and meeting the needs of our aging population.¹ WCU students train in all of these areas and graduates are working in community hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, as public health nurses and many more positions that align with Governor Newsom and the Legislature's funding priorities. It is critical that WCU maintain its enrollment

¹ <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2023-24/pdf/Enacted/BudgetSummary/LaborandWorkforceDevelopment.pdf>

so that access to care is expanded. For this, and the reasons above, I urge you to support their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Bradford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

STEVEN BRADFORD
Senator, 35th District