

To the California Board of Registered Nursing.

My name is Annabelle Duschane Braun, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer for MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in *Fountain Valley, California a city* in Southern California.

MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center (OCMC) is a member of MemorialCare, an integrated, nonprofit health system headquartered in Orange County, California. Orange Coast Medical Center is the only nonprofit hospital in Fountain Valley, California. The hospital is home to the MemorialCare Cancer Institute, MemorialCare Breast Center, MemorialCare Imaging Center, MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, MemorialCare Surgical Weight Loss Center, MemorialCare Joint Replacement Center, Childbirth Center, Digestive Care Center, and Spine Health Center.

OCMC is the only nonprofit hospital in Fountain Valley, California. The hospital is home to the MemorialCare Cancer Institute, MemorialCare Breast Center, MemorialCare Imaging Center, MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, MemorialCare Surgical Weight Loss Center, MemorialCare Joint Replacement Center, Childbirth Center, Digestive Care Center, and Spine Health Center. As well, MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center is approximately 12 miles away from Concordia University Irvine.

In my role as CNO, I have had an outstanding relationship with the leadership team at Concordia University Irvine and our organization has a robust clinical partnership with their ABSN program. Their students are exceptional and when I heard Concordia was looking to increase their enrollment, I was glad to write this letter.

*MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center* supports the need for expansion of Concordia University Irvine's Accelerated BSN program in Irvine.

As you know, the state of California already has a nursing shortage, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced experienced nurses to quit the field, due to exhaustion and burnout or stay in the field outside of the traditional hospital settings. Our hospital relies on these programs to provide a streamline of new graduates that are already integrated into our culture as potential new hires. We have been very successful with this model and will continue to hire new graduates from Concordia University programs.

Expanding Concordia University Irvine's nursing program is critical in strengthening the pipeline of new graduate registered nurses in the Orange County/Los Angeles area.

Sincerely,



Annabelle Braun, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Vice President of Patient Care Services/CNO



# Prime Healthcare

*Saving hospitals. Saving jobs. Saving lives.*

November 8, 2022

To: California Board of Nursing

This letter is in support of expanded enrollment for the Concordia University, Irvine, CA campus for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Prime Healthcare is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest for profit health system in the United States, operating 45 hospitals in 14 states with more than 300 outpatient locations. In Southern California, we operate 15 hospitals

In my previous role as CNO for a large Tenet Hospital in Orange County, I had an outstanding relationship with Dr. Cheryl Smythe-Padgham and our organization had a robust clinical partnership with their ABSN program in Irvine. Their students are exceptional and when I heard Concordia was looking for expand their enrollment, I was grateful as we continue to see evidence of the nursing shortage in our facilities.

The state of California already has a nursing shortage, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced experienced nurses to quit the field, due to exhaustion and burnout or stay in the field outside of the traditional hospital settings.

Our hospitals are struggling to fill positions. We foresee that shortage continuing over the next several years, as registered nurses leave positions in our hospitals to pursue less stressful roles, start their retirement, leave the profession or take jobs that pay extremely high wages.

We currently are experiencing a RN vacancy rate ranging from 15-30% spending an average of \$750,000 per month in RN replacement costs per facility. As of Monday, October 31, 2022 there are approximately 456 open RN positions for the 8 hospitals in Orange County/Los Angeles that would benefit from Concordia University's proposal.

Expanding Concordia University Irvine's nursing program is critical in strengthening the pipeline of new graduate registered nurses in Southern California.

Please feel free to reach out to me should you have further questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Kristin Christophersen DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, CENP, CPHQ, CLSSGB, FACHE  
Region I Chief Nursing Officer

[kchristophersen@primehealthcare.com](mailto:kchristophersen@primehealthcare.com)

760-774-1418



To the California Board of Registered Nursing:

My name is Rick Martin, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer for Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach in Southern California.

Hoag is a nonprofit, regional health care delivery system in Orange County, California. Delivering world-class, comprehensive, personalized care, Hoag consists of 1,800 top physicians, 15 urgent care facilities, 10 health & wellness centers, and two award-winning hospitals. Hoag is the highest ranked hospital in Orange County by *U.S. News & World Report* and the only OC hospital ranked in the Top 10 in California, as well as a designated Magnet® hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

In my role as the Chief Nursing Officer, I have had an outstanding relationship with the leadership team at Concordia University Irvine and our organization has a robust clinical partnership with their ABSN program. Their students are exceptional and when I heard Concordia was looking to increase their enrollment, I was glad to write this letter. Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian supports the need for expansion of Concordia University Irvine's Accelerated BSN program in Irvine.

As you know, the state of California already has a nursing shortage, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced experienced nurses to quit the field, due to exhaustion and burnout or stay in the field outside of the traditional hospital settings. Our hospitals rely on these programs to provide a streamline of new graduates that are already integrated into our culture as potential new hires. We have been very successful with this model and will continue to hire new graduates from Concordia University programs.

Expanding Concordia University Irvine's nursing program is critical in strengthening the pipeline of new graduate registered nurses in the Orange County/Los Angeles area.

Sincerely,

Rick Martin, Ed.D., MSN, RN  
Senior Vice President &  
Chief Nursing Officer





November 3, 2022

To: The California Board of Registered Nursing

My name is Michelle Genova, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer for Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange in Southern California.

Providence is a not-for-profit Catholic health care system in the United States, operating 52 hospitals in 7 states with more than 1,000 outpatient locations.

In Southern California, we operate 11 hospitals, of which 7 are within a 50-mile radius of Concordia University Irvine.

In my role as CNO (Chief Nursing Officer), I have had an outstanding relationship with the leadership team at Concordia University Irvine and our organization has a robust clinical partnership with their ABSN (Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program. Their students are exceptional and when I heard Concordia was looking to increase their enrollment, I was willing to write this letter in support of expanding nursing program enrollment.

Providence St. Joseph Hospital supports the need for expansion of Concordia University Irvine's Accelerated BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program in Irvine.

As you know, the state of California already has a nursing shortage, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced experienced nurses to quit the field, due to exhaustion and burnout or stay in the field outside of the traditional hospital settings.

Our hospital is struggling to fill positions. We foresee that shortage continuing over the next several years, as registered nurses leave positions in our hospitals to pursue less stressful roles, start their retirement, leave the profession, or take jobs that pay extremely high wages. *Our projections given the current RN turnover rate, pending retirements and/or growth would be 200 to 250 nursing positions per year.*

We currently are experiencing an RN vacancy rate ranging from 15% - 20% (including Leaves of Absence) spending an average of \$10,000 per RN to replace each. As of 11/1/2022 there are approximately 177 open RN positions for just the St Joseph Hospital in Orange that would benefit from Concordia University's proposal.

Expanding Concordia University Irvine's nursing program is critical in strengthening the pipeline of new graduate registered nurses in the Orange County/Los Angeles area.

Sincerely,



Michelle Genova, RN, MSN  
Chief Nursing Officer