

“The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) supports efforts to provide more opportunities for individuals to advance in the nursing profession especially with the current need for more healthcare workers throughout the continuum of care, particularly skilled nursing facilities” said Melissa Samuel, HCAM President/CEO. “Having an option for people to continue their nursing education closer to home will encourage more people to strive for their BSN and offer a local option for a career ladder for our current skilled nursing facility employees.”

1. Need

- a. Now more than ever, healthcare providers need baccalaureate-prepared nurses to deliver care in our rural communities. According to the National Academy of Sciences Future of Nursing Report:
 - i. By 2020, 80% of nurses should have their BSN.
 - ii. Currently, Munson Healthcare hospitals have between 50% and 60% of their nurses with a BSN.

2. Accessibility

- a. There are 28 community colleges around Michigan providing local, accessible options for students seeking a BSN degree.
- b. Colleges in our rural communities in northern Michigan provide easy access for working students seeking a BSN to further their career, or as a requirement of employment. The distance from Traverse City to the nearest four-year university (Ferris State University) is almost 90 miles.

3. Outcomes

- a. Clinical research has shown that BSN nurses provide for better patient outcomes.
- b. Research links a higher percentage of BSN-prepared nurses to lower patient morbidity and mortality rates. According to the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, a 10% increase in the proportion of nurses with BSNs was associated with a 7% decrease in patient deaths.

4. Cost

- a. Community colleges offer an affordable option for students seeking a nursing baccalaureate degree and are typically half the cost or less of a university for in-district/in-state tuition. According to each institution's website, the per credit hour tuition is:
 - i. NMC: in-district \$109 / in-state \$227
 - ii. Baker College: \$415
 - iii. Ferris State University: \$470
 - iv. Lake Superior State University: \$519



Extraordinary care for every generation.



OUR PATIENTS

October 30, 2020

Senator Ken Horn
Michigan State Senate – 32nd District
201 Townsend Street / Suite #7200
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

senkhorn@senate.michigan.gov

Dear Senator Horn:

I understand that the Senate Reform Committee voted to report out on Senate Bill 1055 (sponsored by Senator Aric Nesbitt). This legislation would extend community college baccalaureate authority to nursing and I'd like to offer my support for the change. Expanding the authority for community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing is vitally important for residents across the state. And, it is of particular interest to Covenant HealthCare.

As the largest, most comprehensive health care provider in the region, Covenant HealthCare offers a broad spectrum of programs and services ranging from high-risk obstetrics, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, to acute care including a Level II Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center, cardiology, oncology, orthopaedics, robotic surgery and many other services.

Headquartered in Saginaw, Covenant HealthCare is the largest health care employer in the Great Lakes Bay Region. We serve seven critical access and community hospitals across 20 counties in Michigan's thumb region and in central Michigan. We have more than 560 physicians who serve at more than 20 inpatient and outpatient facilities and have more than 4,400 employees.

The medical field in Michigan continues to struggle to find the number of qualified nurses needed to fill the demand. This will be due to an increasing number of retirements anticipated over the years ahead, especially related to the workplace stress of the ongoing pandemic. When combined with our aging population, we know we have a need for many more nurses.

By allowing community colleges to train students and award Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing, hospitals and other health care providers would be able to better meet our hiring needs. For decades, we have hired workers with their RN degrees, awarded by community colleges.

We know students from Delta College, in particular, pass their state and national licensing exams at rates higher than most other colleges and universities in the state or nation. Delta College is training exceptional nurses for our medical center team. There is no reason to believe that extending the extensive training Michigan's community colleges already offer to nursing students to include BSNs will impair the quality of those nurses.

We know there are talented students who are going without the needed education in the nursing field, which is why this legislation is so important. We join the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, which has supported the proposal to expand community colleges' ability to offer the BSN degree.

Please consider the perspective of the medical field when debating this bill. Passage will help us to attract and retain top talent, as well as advance nursing standards and practice. With an ultimate goal of improving patient care, safety and satisfaction, Covenant HealthCare supports Senate Bill 1055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Charlton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" being more prominent than the last name "Charlton".

Beth Charlton
Executive Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer
Covenant HealthCare

cc: Dr. Jean Goodnow, Ph.D., President, Delta College
Ed Bruff, CEO, Covenant HealthCare

(print on MidMichigan Health letterhead)

September 29, 2020

Senator Jim Stamas
36th District
Michigan State Senate
920 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

senistamas@senate.michigan.gov

Dear Senator Stamas:

I understand that the Senate Reform Committee voted to report out on Senate Bill 1055 (sponsored by Senator Aric Nesbitt). This legislation would extend community college baccalaureate authority to nursing and I'd like to offer my support for the change. Expanding the authority for community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing is vitally important for residents across the state. And, it is of particular interest to MidMichigan Health, which is headquartered in Midland, Michigan.

As you know, MidMichigan Health is a non-profit health system, affiliated with the University of Michigan Health System since 2013. We cover a 23 county region with medical centers in Midland, Alpena, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Mt. Pleasant and West Branch, as well as urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, physicians, medical offices and other specialty health services. Our system has more than 8,700 employees, volunteers and health care providers.

MidMichigan Health has decades of offering high level medical services to our community, which has been strengthened with our affiliation agreement with the University of Michigan. We are also actively pursuing the "Magnet Hospital" status, which we feel is an important distinction within our region. The Magnet Recognition Program recognizes health care organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice. Consumers rely on Magnet designation as the ultimate credential for high quality nursing.

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Please consider the perspective of the medical field when debating this bill. Passage will help us to attract and retain top talent, as well as advance nursing standards and practice. With an ultimate goal of improving patient care, safety and satisfaction, MidMichigan Health Center supports Senate Bill 1055.

Sincerely,

Diane Postler-Slattery – President and CEO
MidMichigan Health
4000 Wellness Drive
Midland, MI 48670-2000

Copies: Dr. Jean Goodnow; Delta College; 1961 Delta Road; University Center, MI 48710



September 15, 2020

Senator Aric Nesbitt - Committee Chair
Regulatory Reform Committee

Senator Nesbitt:

In advance of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee meeting today at 3:00 pm, I am writing in support of SB 1055, which would allow community colleges to grant bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

Delta College currently has a strong nursing program leading to graduates obtaining their associate in applied degree in nursing, allowing them to immediately enter the workforce as a Registered Nurse (RN). Additionally, before qualifying for licensure as a registered nurse, all student graduates must pass the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX). The test given is the same for either associate degree or bachelor degree student graduates. And, Delta College's graduates in 2018-2019 passed at a 99 percent success rate on the first try! This is a fact of which we're extremely proud and for which our faculty is responsible!

Our faculty are fully credentialed and stand ready to expand our offerings in order to achieve the nursing baccalaureate degree. We are aware of the expanded courses needed in business, for example, for which we also have strong offerings.

Delta College's mission, and that of all community colleges, is to respond to the constantly evolving needs of our communities. Adding the option of a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree is another way Delta can continue to respond to the workforce needs in healthcare in the Great Lakes Bay Region, as well as the state's broader postsecondary attainment goals.

Thank you to the committee for its willingness to consider this regulatory change. It can help all community colleges respond to the need for additional nurses over the next decade and beyond, as identified by the Bureau of Labor Market Information. We strongly support the proposal and look forward working with the legislature to respond to any further questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Jean Goodnow, PhD – President
989-686-9200

1417 Ohio Road
University Center, Toledo, OH
Phone: 419-686-9200
Fax: 419-686-9204
www.deltacollege.edu

(print on Ascension St. Mary's Hospital letterhead)

October 19, 2020

Senator Ken Horn
Michigan State Senate – 32nd District
201 Townsend Street / Suite #7200
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

senkhorn@senate.michigan.gov

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Ascension includes more than 160,000 associates and 40,000 aligned providers. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 146 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services.

In Central Michigan, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital is a full-service hospital with 24/7 emergency care, a Level II Trauma Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center. We deliver advanced surgical care for serious and life-threatening injuries and illnesses. We are a destination for specialty care - including structural heart care, comprehensive stroke and spine care, cancer, orthopedics and women's health.

The medical field in Michigan continues to struggle to find the number of qualified nurses needed to fill the demand. This will be due to an increasing number of retirements anticipated over the years ahead, especially related to the workplace stress of the ongoing pandemic. When combined with our aging population, we know we have a need for many more nurses.

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Please consider the perspective of the medical field when debating this bill. Passage will help us to attract and retain top talent, as well as advance nursing standards and practice. With an ultimate goal of improving patient care, safety and satisfaction, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital supports Senate Bill 1055.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Duggan
President/CEO
Ascension St. Mary's
800 South Washington Ave
Saginaw, MI 48601

Copies: Dr. Jean Goodnow; Delta College; 1961 Delta Road; University Center, MI 48710

(print on Ascension St. Mary's Hospital letterhead)

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Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Duggan
President/CEO
Ascension St. Mary's
800 South Washington Ave
Saginaw, MI 48601

Copies: Dr. Jean Goodnow; Delta College; 1961 Delta Road; University Center, MI 48710