



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

Legislative and Governmental Relations Division - Office of the Chancellor

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Rob Wilcox, Press Secretary | robert.wilcox@sen.ca.gov | (916) 651-4031

Maria Luisa Veloz, Legislative & Governmental Rel. Officer | velozml@laccd.edu | (626) 390-8432

Senator Roth Unveils Transformative Legislation to Address California’s Nursing Shortage – SB 895

LOS ANGELES (February 13, 2024) – To help address California’s shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs) Senator Richard D.Roth (D-Riverside) has introduced Senate Bill 895 which creates a pilot program that authorizes the Chancellor of the Community Colleges to select up to 15 community college districts, with existing nationally accredited Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), programs to offer a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

“For decades, California has suffered from a shortage of Registered Nurses, and this problem has been exacerbated in recent years due to the pandemic and it’s expected to worsen due to an increase in RN retirements. While the nursing shortage is a national problem, it is particularly acute here in our state,— ranking 40th out of 50 states. A key factor contributing to this crisis is that California’s nursing school capacity has not been able to keep up with demand. In 2018, more than 85% of hospitals in California reported that the demand for RN’s was greater than the available supply – a situation that has not improved. But there is a path forward to help solve this problem and that path cuts right through our California Community Colleges. Our SB 895 creates a pilot program allowing community colleges to offer a bachelor’s degree in nursing, which is increasingly the industry standard, and a requirement for employment in our hospitals,” said Senator Roth.

“I am proud to join Senator Roth in authoring this important piece of legislation. By allowing select community colleges to offer a Bachelor’s in Nursing, we are making the nursing profession more accessible. For regions like mine that are historically underserved and continue to suffer from a healthcare workforce shortage, this program is a game changer. Students will have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor’s in Nursing close to home and creates a pathway for aspiring nurses to be trained in the communities that most need them,” said Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced).

“The healthcare staffing crisis is a major area of need for California’s workforce and a priority for the California Community Colleges. We look forward to collaborating with the Governor and Legislature, our labor and industry partners, educators, and our colleges on this critical issue,” said Sonya Christian, Chancellor, California Community Colleges.

“With the growing preference of healthcare employers to hire Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates, the 70+ nursing schools at California’s community colleges are perfectly positioned to meet this need and provide a practical, low-cost, high-quality solution to the acute shortage of nurses in California. This landmark legislation enables our colleges to meet the huge demand for nurses, while addressing mounting health disparities in California, especially in underserved areas,” said Francisco C. Rodriguez, Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District.”

“The Community College League of California is grateful to Senator Roth for demonstrating his leadership by authoring SB 895 to address California’s nursing shortage. The League is honored to serve as a co-sponsor of this timely and important legislation. SB 895 offers a solution that creates a viable pathway for students to become nurses and, in turn, improve the health and welfare in their own communities.,” said Larry Galizio, President & CEO, Community College League of California.

“The Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Board enthusiastically supports Senator Roth’s legislation to increase pathways to nursing degrees through community colleges. Many of our campuses have extraordinary nursing programs, and the expansion to include BSN degrees broadens affordable and locally accessible options in the state. Students have great interest in seeking this degree as the means to a high-paying career yet need an affordable and accessible approach. California community colleges have the capacity and the desire to serve students’ needs for nursing baccalaureate programs, and this legislation provides an immediate and sustainable solution,” said Julianna Barnes, CEOCCC President, League Board Chair, Chancellor, South Orange County Community College District.

“The United Nurses Associations of CA/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) is proud to sponsor SB 895 because it will increase access to affordable BSN programs in the community. As a graduate of a community college nursing program in the City of Los Angeles, having accessible programs will allow the next generation of nurses to remain in their communities after graduation,” said Charmaine Morales, RN, President, UNAC/UHCP.

For over 40 years, the community college Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) has been the basic credential requirement for employment as an RN in a healthcare facility; and the California State University, the University of California, and private nursing schools have historically awarded BSNs to those who elect to pursue a four-year degree.

However, the healthcare workforce requirements are changing – hospitals are increasingly preferring and requiring a BSN degree for their nurses. In 2010, the Institute of Medicine issued its Future of Nursing report which contained a set of recommendations, including the recommendation that the proportion of RN’s with a BSN degree in health care facilities increase to 80% by 2020. In California, a 2021 Health Impact report found that 18% of California hospitals surveyed stated that a BSN was required for employment – twice the percentage noted in 2017 – and 54.3% reported a preference for hiring BSNs.

The way to bridge the BSN gap in this State is to utilize existing ADN programs at community colleges to assist CSU and UC in addressing this shortage. This bill would offer a way to close this gap by taking advantage of existing ADN programs in the State. With the difference between an ADN and a BSN being only an additional 30 units of coursework, several ADN programs are well-positioned to expand their offerings to BSN degrees.

SB 895 does this in an incremental way by creating a pilot program that authorizes the Chancellor of the Community Colleges to select up to 15 community college districts with existing nationally accredited ADN programs to offer a BSN degree to 25% of existing ADN classes, or 35 students, whichever is greater. By operating within the existing ADN program authorization, the program will not require additional supervised clinical placements and is intended to be cost-neutral.

###

About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 200,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

Community College District Support for Senator Richard D. Roth's SB 895

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

"With the growing preference of healthcare employers to hire Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates, the 70+ nursing schools at California's community colleges are perfectly positioned to meet this need and provide a practical, low-cost, high-quality solution to the acute shortage of nurses in California. This landmark legislation enables our colleges to meet the huge demand for nurses while addressing mounting health disparities in California, especially in underserved areas," said Francisco C. Rodriguez, Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District.

"In California, estimates show that we face a shortage of about 36,000 licensed nurses and that need is expected to grow substantially by 2030. This tremendous gap continues to widen, as current nursing baccalaureate degree programs have demand greater than their enrollment capacity. The California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board recognizes that our colleges have a unique opportunity to solve significant workforce needs and support students who may not otherwise seek baccalaureate degrees because of cost or access from their own community," said Andra Hoffman, CCCT President, Trustee, Los Angeles Community College District

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

"SB 895, authored by Senator Richard Roth and sponsored by the Community College League of California, is historic landmark legislation that allows for the utilization of existing expensive pre-clinical and clinical infrastructure already in place at the community colleges for the training of Associate Degrees in Nursing (ADN) students to be also used for the training of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students in a limited capacity, operating within existing ADN class size and capping the BSN cohort at 25% of the ADN class or 35 students, whichever is greater. . The shortage of nurses, especially at the BSN level is caused by the limited capacity of the public universities, by a rapidly aging population, and by an aging nursing workforce. Recognizing the magnitude and gravity of the problem, SB 895 will allow for the selected California Community Colleges to join forces with the California State Universities in a creative and collaborative manner to address this formidable and critical challenge," said Wolde-Ab Isaac, Chancellor, Riverside Community College District.

STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

"The San Joaquin Valley faces a significant nursing shortage in a population that is medically underserved and has growing healthcare needs. Addressing the nursing crisis head-on by providing affordable, quality education locally is a crucial step towards providing our diverse student body with greater access to advanced healthcare training. By enabling our community colleges, which already play a crucial role in training the majority of the state's RNs, this bill will allow us to meet unfilled demand and significantly enhance our capacity to meet local and statewide healthcare needs. We look forward to joining other states who have already adopted this progressive measure," said Carole Goldsmith, Chancellor, State Center Community College District, Fresno.

CERRITOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

"On behalf of the Cerritos Community College District, we are proud to support SB 895 and extend our gratitude to Senator Roth for proposing a solution that would help to meet the nursing professionals' needs to fill the workforce demands and better meet the needs of our local community," said Jose Fierro, President/Superintendent, Cerritos Community College District.

FOOTHILL DE-ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

"California is expected to face a shortage of more than 44,000 registered nurses by 2030, but the state's bachelor's degree programs currently only have space for about 25% of the qualified applicants. Senator Roth has shown tremendous foresight in harnessing the power of the community college system to expand opportunities for students to gain access to a high quality, low-cost educational pathway to a career that provides a family-sustaining wage and fills a critical workforce need," said Lee Lambert, Chancellor, Foothill De-Anza Community College District

MIRA COSTA COLLEGE

"In the spirit of advancing healthcare education and addressing the critical shortage of nursing professionals in our state, I wholeheartedly urge our community and stakeholders to support SB 895 (Roth). This landmark legislation authorizes a pilot program allowing our community colleges to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing, a pivotal step toward expanding the nursing workforce. With California's projected need for over 36,000 licensed nurses by 2030, and specifically 3,500 in the San Diego region alone, the urgency cannot be overstated. By enabling community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing, we can significantly increase the number of qualified nursing professionals ready to serve our communities. This legislation represents a forward-thinking approach to healthcare education, directly addressing the needs of our communities and ensuring that we are prepared to meet the health challenges of tomorrow," said Sunita "Sunny" Cooke, Superintendent/President, MiraCosta College.



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

Legislative and Governmental Relations Division - Office of the Chancellor

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Rob Wilcox, Press Secretary | robert.wilcox@sen.ca.gov | (916)651-4031

Maria Luisa Veloz, Legislative & Governmental Rel. Officer | velozml@laccd.edu | (626)390-8432

El Senador Roth Revela una Legislación Transformadora para Abordar la Escasez de Profesionales en Enfermería en California

El Programa Piloto Daría Luz Verde a las Licenciaturas en Enfermería en Colegios Comunitarios

SACRAMENTO — Para ayudar a abordar la escasez de Enfermeros y Enfermeras Registrados (RN, por sus siglas en inglés) en California, el Senador Richard D. Roth (D-Riverside) presentó el Proyecto de Ley Senatorial 895 que crea un programa piloto que autoriza a Rectores de Colegios Comunitarios a seleccionar hasta 15 distritos de colegios comunitarios, con programas existentes de Grado Asociado en Enfermería (ADN, por sus siglas en inglés) acreditados a nivel nacional, para ofrecer una Licenciatura en Ciencias de la Enfermería (BSN, por sus siglas en inglés).

“Durante décadas, California ha sufrido una escasez de Enfermeros Registrados, y este problema se ha exacerbado en los últimos años debido a la pandemia y se espera que empeore debido a un aumento en las jubilaciones de enfermeros y enfermeras registrados. Si bien la escasez de enfermeros es un problema nacional, es particularmente grave aquí en nuestro estado – que ocupa el puesto 40 entre los 50 estados. Un factor clave que contribuye a esta crisis es que la capacidad de las escuelas de enfermería de California no ha podido satisfacer la demanda. En 2018, más del 85% de los hospitales de California informaron que la demanda de enfermeras y enfermeros registrados era mayor que la oferta disponible – una situación que no ha mejorado. Pero hay un camino para ayudar a resolver este problema y ese camino cruza por nuestros Colegios Comunitarios de California. Nuestro Proyecto de Ley SB 895 crea un programa piloto que permitirá a los Colegios Comunitarios ofrecer una Licenciatura en Enfermería, que es cada vez más el estándar de la industria y un requisito para el empleo en nuestros hospitales”, dijo el Senador Roth.

“Estoy orgullosa de unirme al Senador Roth en la autoría de esta importante ley. Al permitir que determinados colegios comunitarios ofrezcan una Licenciatura en Enfermería, estamos haciendo que la profesión de enfermería sea más accesible. Para regiones como la mía, que históricamente han estado desatendidas y continúan sufriendo una escasez de personal sanitario, este programa supone un punto de inflexión. Los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de obtener una Licenciatura en Enfermería cerca de casa y creará un camino para que los

aspirantes a la enfermería se capaciten en las comunidades que más los necesitan”, dijo la Senadora Anna Caballero (D-Merced).

“La crisis de personal de atención médica es un área importante de necesidad para la fuerza laboral de California y una prioridad para los Colegios Comunitarios de California. Esperamos colaborar con el Gobernador y la Legislatura, nuestros socios laborales e industriales, los educadores y nuestras universidades en este tema crucial”, dijo Sonya Christian, Rectora de los Colegios Comunitarios de California.

“La Liga de Colegios Comunitarios de California agradece al Senador Roth por demostrar su liderazgo al redactar el Proyecto de Ley SB 895 para abordar la escasez de enfermeros y enfermeras en California. La Liga tiene el honor de ser copatrocinadora de esta importante y oportuna legislación. El Proyecto de Ley SB 895 ofrece una solución que crea un camino viable para que los estudiantes se conviertan en enfermeros y, a la vez, mejoren la salud y el bienestar en sus propias comunidades”, dijo Larry Galizio, Presidente y Director Ejecutivo de la Liga de Colegios Comunitarios de California.

“Los Directores Ejecutivos de la Junta de Colegios Comunitarios de California (CEOCCC, por sus siglas en inglés) apoyan con entusiasmo la legislación del Senador Roth para ampliar los caminos hacia la obtención de títulos de enfermería a través de los colegios comunitarios. Muchos de nuestros campus tienen programas extraordinarios de enfermería y la expansión para incluir títulos de Licenciatura en Enfermería (BSN, por sus siglas en inglés), incrementa las opciones económicas y accesibles localmente en el estado. Los estudiantes tienen un gran interés en buscar este título como medio para una carrera bien remunerada, pero necesitan un enfoque económico y accesible. Los Colegios Comunitarios de California tienen la capacidad y el deseo de atender las necesidades de los estudiantes para los programas de licenciatura en enfermería, y esta legislación proporciona una solución inmediata y sostenible”, dijo Julianna Barnes, Presidenta de CEOCCC, Presidenta de la Junta Directiva de la Liga, Rectora del Distrito de Colegios Comunitarios del Sur del Condado de Orange.

“Las Asociaciones Unidas de Enfermeros de CA/Unión de Profesionales de la Salud (UNAC/UHCP, por sus siglas en inglés) se enorgullecen de patrocinar el Proyecto de Ley SB 895 porque aumentará el acceso a programas BSN económicos en la comunidad. Como graduada de un programa de enfermería de un colegio comunitario en la ciudad de Los Ángeles, tener programas accesibles permitirá que la próxima generación de enfermeros y enfermeras permanezca en sus comunidades después de graduarse”, dijo Charmaine Morales, RN, Presidenta de UNAC/UHCP.

Durante más de 40 años, el Título Asociado en Enfermería (ADN) del colegio comunitario ha sido el requisito de credencial básico para trabajar como enfermero registrado en un centro de atención médica; y la Universidad Estatal de California, la Universidad de California y las escuelas privadas de enfermería, históricamente han otorgado licenciaturas (BSN) a quienes eligen obtener un título de cuatro años.

Sin embargo, los requisitos del personal sanitario están cambiando – los hospitales prefieren y exigen cada vez más un título de BSN para sus enfermeros. En 2010, el Instituto de Medicina publicó su informe El futuro de la Enfermería que contenía un conjunto de recomendaciones, incluida la recomendación de que la proporción de enfermeros registrados con un título de BSN en centros de atención médica aumente al 80 % para 2020. En California, un informe de

impacto en la salud de 2021 encontró que el 18% de los hospitales de California encuestados declararon que se requería un BSN para trabajar – el doble del porcentaje observado en 2017 – y el 54,3% informó una preferencia por contratar BSN.

La forma de cerrar la brecha de BSN en este estado es utilizar los programas ADN existentes en los colegios comunitarios para ayudar a CSU y UC a abordar esta escasez. Este proyecto de ley ofrecería una manera de cerrar esta brecha aprovechando los programas ADN existentes en el estado. Dado que la diferencia entre un ADN y un BSN es de solo 30 unidades adicionales de cursos, varios programas de ADN están bien posicionados para ampliar su oferta a títulos de BSN.

El Proyecto de Ley SB 895 hace esto de manera incremental al crear un programa piloto que autoriza al Rector de los Colegios Comunitarios a seleccionar hasta 15 distritos de colegios comunitarios con programas ADN acreditados a nivel nacional existentes para ofrecer un título de BSN al 25% de las clases de ADN existentes, o 35 estudiantes, el que sea mayor. Al operar dentro de la autorización existente del programa ADN, el programa no requerirá colocaciones clínicas supervisadas adicionales y pretende tener un costo neutral.

(Se adjuntan al correo electrónico citas de apoyo adicionales de distritos de colegios comunitarios).