

ITEM NO. 18

DRAFT

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Darrell Issa
House of Representatives
221 Cannon – House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

Thank you for your ongoing legislative efforts to secure seed funding for MiraCosta College's Fast-Track Career Ladder for Nurses, a national model in nursing education that will help alleviate the nation's nursing crisis while assisting our active duty and veteran corpsmen/medics advance in their careers.

The San Diego County region suffers from a severe nursing shortage, and has one of the lowest ratios of RNs per capita in the United States. As a result, our health care costs are rising and our health care providers are challenged to sustain the high quality care their patients expect.

The City of Oceanside has had a long and productive partnership with MiraCosta College, where more than 18,000 students seek to better themselves through higher education. Investing in MiraCosta College's proposed nursing program will produce substantial wins for our region's health care providers, for our residents, for our active-duty and veteran corpsmen, and for the many prospective students who have been requesting access to nursing education.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the residents of Oceanside and the San Diego region to develop a national model in nursing education in MiraCosta College's Fast Track Career Ladder for Nurses.

Jim Wood
Mayor

Rocky Chavez
Deputy Mayor

Jack Feller
Councilmember

Jerome M. Kern
Councilmember

Esther C. Sanchez
Councilmember

Cc: Molly Boyl

DRAFT

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart – Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your ongoing legislative efforts to secure seed funding for MiraCosta College's Fast-Track Career Ladder for Nurses, a national model in nursing education that will help alleviate the nation's nursing crisis while assisting our active duty and veteran corpsmen/medics advance in their careers.

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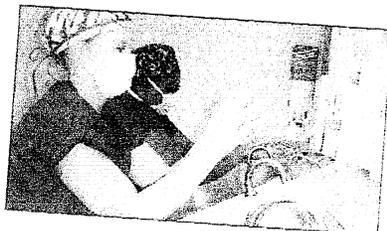
Cc: Ryan Hunt

Meeting the Region's Needs



MiraCosta College

Fast-track Career Ladder for Nurses



The Shortage of Nurses.

The rapidly worsening nursing shortage has been well-documented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and other national and professional organizations concerned with health care. Here are some key statistics illustrating the situation

- **Next to Last.** California ranks 49th in the nation in RNs per capita, with 589 per 100,000 residents as opposed to the national average of 798. San Diego North County has only 356.
- **An Aging Population.** The numbers of North County residents over aged 60 will more than double by the year 2020 – leading to a dramatic increase in the demand for nurses.
- **A National and Local Shortage.** 126,000 nurses are currently needed to fill vacancies at our nation's hospitals. There are currently 717 nursing vacancies in the San Diego region, 416 of them are in North San Diego County.
- **Long Term Shortages Anticipated.** By the year 2006, San Diego County will experience an 18% growth in the need for nurses. By 2020, the U.S. expects a 20% shortage of nurses – which represents 400,000 nursing position vacancies.

The Shortage of Nursing Programs.

Almost all collegiate nursing programs in California are at capacity and have waiting lists up to three years long. Enrollments in public and private institutions have been unable to expand to meet workforce needs and student interest due to the high cost of providing accredited nursing instruction.

Campaign for Nurses

- **The Goal.** In partnership with the region's health care providers and other educational institutions, MiraCosta College will more than double the number of student we prepare for the nursing field from 120 to 240 per year by building a comprehensive career/education ladder for students and nursing professionals.

The Benefits

- **More Nurses.** Increase the number of locally-trained nurses, who are most likely to live and work in the region. Ninety-five percent of our graduates remain the in region when they enter the workforce upon graduation.
- **Specialized Nurses.** Educate new nurses to meet the region's specific needs, such as acute care, gerontology, and other specializations.
- **Better Nurses.** Create a ladder of educational opportunities for nursing professionals to advance through education; continually upgrading their skills and education.
- **Utilizing Military Corpsman.** Provide transitional education opportunities.

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Fast-track Career Ladder

Expanded Route: 6.5 year	Certified Nursing Assistant 1 semester	Licensed Vocational Nurse 2 years	Registered Nurse 2 years	Masters of Science in Nursing 2 years
Added Route 4 year Fastest route to highly trained nurses			Registered Nurse/ Associates Degree Nursing 2 years	Masters of Science in Nursing 2 years
Added Route for Corpsman 4.5 year		Licensed Vocational Nurse Test + 1 semester	Registered Nurse 2 years	Masters of Science in Nursing 2 years