



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Wayne Schmidt (R-37)
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Schmidt:

Thank you in advance for registering my enthusiastic endorsement of Senate Bill 98. Sponsored by the Honorable state Senator Mike Shirkey (R-16), this legislation seeks to permit community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing, ski-area management, wastewater treatment technology, allied health, information technology, and manufacturing technology.

As you know, the Legislature passed – and Governor Snyder signed into law in December 2012 – *Public Act 495 of 2012*, which allows community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in cement technology, maritime technology, energy production technology, and culinary arts. That expansion of community college degree offerings has exceeded expectations – thus, the impetus to widen the scope.

Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) would have interest in offering its students the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate in nursing, taking into consideration that hundreds of Canadian nurses cross the U.S. border daily to work at Detroit-area hospitals because of the shortage of such professionals. The added value to Michigan's economy – in terms of both employment statistics and tax revenue – would be significant if we could train state residents for those good-paying jobs!

I could continue, but that would only belabor this point: Senate Bill 98 is good public policy that merits your support. Again, thank you for considering my sentiment. Feel free to call me with any questions at 313-496-2510.

Warm Regards,

Curtis L. Ivery,
Chancellor, WCCCD

cc: Members of the Michigan Legislature
Governor Rick Snyder