



Heywood Healthcare

Athol Hospital | Heywood Hospital | Heywood Medical Group

April 3rd, 2026

Re: U. S. Senate FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests-

Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Ed Markey

Heywood Healthcare

Letter of Support

We are writing in support of the Regis College's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request. Our organization (add name of organization) works closely with Regis on clinical placement opportunities for pre-licensure nursing and several of their students transition to our nursing workforce. The integration of immersive virtual reality within the simulation space represents a forward-thinking approach to healthcare education that has the potential to significantly enhance student learning, strengthen clinical readiness, and ensure more consistent exposure to high-risk, low-frequency cases that are essential for competency.

The impact of this initiative extends well beyond the classroom. Hospitals and healthcare partners are increasingly challenged by staffing shortages, high patient acuity, and limited capacity to accommodate student learners. By supplementing clinical hours with high-quality immersive virtual reality simulation, nursing programs can reduce the burden on clinical sites while still preparing students to meet workforce demands. This creates a more sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership between academic institutions and healthcare providers.

Furthermore, students who are trained using advanced simulation tools often enter clinical environments with greater confidence, stronger critical thinking skills, and improved readiness to contribute effectively to patient care teams. This translates into shorter onboarding times, reduced training costs for hospital partners, and ultimately improved patient outcomes.

The proposed initiative also opens the door for collaborative opportunities between nursing programs and hospital systems. Simulation scenarios can be co-developed to reflect real-world challenges faced by partner institutions, aligning educational outcomes with workforce needs. This level of collaboration fosters



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stronger relationships and ensures that graduates are well-prepared to transition seamlessly into practice within those healthcare systems.

In an era where innovation in education is essential to addressing healthcare workforce shortages and improving quality of care, the integration of immersive virtual reality simulation is both timely and necessary. This grant would not only enhance the educational experience of nursing students but also create lasting, positive impacts on healthcare delivery through strengthened academic-practice partnerships.

I strongly encourage you to support this proposal and invest in the future of nursing education and healthcare excellence.

Sincerely,

Dayna Stahl, DNP, MSN/Ed, RN

Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer