



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 3079

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek, Rep. Vega Pederson, Rep. Dembrow, Rep. McKeown

Testimony in support of HB 3079
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Public Hearing March 25, 2013
8:00 a.m., Hearing Room D

Good morning Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee. For the record, I'm Chris Gorsek, State Representative for House District 49, which includes the cities of Troutdale, Wood Village, Fairview and Gresham.

I'm happy to be here today to testify in support of House Bill 3079, which would ensure that our students have the information they need to make an informed decision on their continuing education.

In addition to being a state representative, I am also a professor at Mt. Hood Community College and I want to ensure that my students have the information they need if they're considering a for-profit college.

Last year, I found out that one of my students had attended a for-profit college and when she was nearing the completion of her four-year degree, she inquired about transferring to a public university to continue her education. Unfortunately, she found out that she had taken classes from a school that was not accredited by an institution recognized by the public university and so they would not accept her credits.

She had paid a considerable amount of money to attend this school, but still ended up having to duplicate her courses at another college. She began doing this at Mt. Hood, because it was cheaper than a public four-year institution, but she still had to incur new debt to get to the masters level program she had begun pursuing in the first place.

The fact that there appear to be for-profit colleges operating here in Oregon that are not accredited with local schools is something our students need to know. This bill is first and foremost about protecting our students by providing them the information they need to make informed decisions and that is why I am here supporting HB 3079.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

