



House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Tiffany Dollar, Associated Students of Portland State University President
Re: Support for HB 3149, Childcare Taskforce for Community Colleges

Good morning Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. For the record, my name is Tiffany Dollar and I am speaking on behalf of the Oregon Student Association. I have the honor to serve as the Student Body President at Portland State, Oregon's largest university. I am here today to encourage your yes vote. A yes vote is a vote for student parents. A childcare taskforce for community colleges will address the needs of Oregon's ever aging and diversifying student population. OUS participation of Oregon high school graduates peaked at 24 percent in 2001, and has since declined to 19 percent.¹ If we hope to reach 40-40-20 we need to do more for non-traditional students and Oregon families.

At Portland State in Fall of 2012 more than 6,000 of our 23,170 undergraduate students were transfers from Oregon community colleges.² This number includes me. After starting my college career at Portland Community College, I graduated from Clackamas with my AAOT before transferring to PSU. My educational experience as a first-generation, returning student has informed my view on this issue. As the Student Body President of PSU I know the difference childcare can make in the life of an individual student's ability to succeed in the classroom. ASPSU founded a childcare center on campus in 1997 proving that serving student families has been a priority of ASPSU for decades.

I am proud to share with you all that Portland State serves more Oregon community college transfers than any other OUS institution. . The number of new undergraduate transfers coming into PSU has nearly doubled since 2001, keeping pace with the total entering the

¹ Oregon University System Factbook 2012, page 38,
http://www.ous.edu/sites/default/files/dept/ir/reports/fb2010/2012_Fact_Book.pdf.

² Idib., 38. System wide Oregon community college transfers make up 19.7 percent of all undergraduates; at PSU this percentage is more than 26 percent