



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HB 3149**

**Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek**

**House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**  
**Public Hearing April 1, 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 glad to be here this morning to speak in support of House Bill 3149 which will create a task force to study the cost of providing child care services to students at community colleges and what funding sources for this exist.

The lack of adequate child care at our community colleges is a real problem. As an instructor at Mt. Hood Community College I see this every day. Parents who are unable to afford childcare, but not eligible for Head Start, have very few options available to them. Some students are forced to bring their children to class with them. While I allow this in my courses, not every instructor does and even then, having your child with you in your college classes does not create a beneficial environment for the parent or the child.

Parents who are working hard to improve their lives by attaining a degree face enough challenges without having to worry about how to take care of their child while in class. They need our help.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

