



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HB 4058**

**Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek**

**House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development  
Public Hearing and Possible Work Session March 19, 2013  
10:30 a.m., Hearing Room D**

Good Morning Chair Harker and Members of the Committee. For the Record, I am Chris Gorsek, Representative for district 49 encompassing the cities of Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and Gresham. I am here today to speak in support of HB 4058. HB 4058 would add Career Technical Education to Oregon's Educational Goals and clarify the goals to include vocational education and workforce development.

In 2011, the legislature approved was is known as the "40-40-20" goal, which states that by 2025 all adult Oregonians will hold a high school diploma or equivalent, 40% of them will have an associate's degree or postsecondary certificate, and 40% will hold a bachelor's degree or advanced degree. The middle 40 currently includes associates degrees and other post-secondary credentials. While the Oregon Department of Education and the HECC are making important decisions about what "post-secondary credentials" includes there are some programs that we must make sure are not overlooked at the implementation level in our state's schools. This bill clarifies that apprenticeship programs are included. The apprenticeship programs that would be included would have to registered with Bureau of Labor and Industries's Apprenticeship and Training Division and meet their standard of apprenticeship, therefore making sure that only the highest quality programs are accepted. Apprenticeship programs are great fit for our education goals because these programs often take an equivalent amount of time as a college degree to complete, up to five years in some cases, involve many classroom hours, and require mathematics knowledge, mechanical ability, problem-solving skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with a team.

Apprenticeships can lead to opportunities for further education, including college certificates or associate degrees. In the past few years the Legislature has invested millions of dollars in Career Technical Education in our high schools and middle schools. For some students taking advantage of these programs, college is not the right next step. But apprenticeship programs could offer a continuing pathway into a high wage job.

As a community college instructor, I understand the place that workforce development programs play in strengthen our communities and creating well-paid jobs



that strengthen our economy. In our district, we have three apprenticeship training facilities that prepare workers for well-paying jobs as electricians, carpenters, and sheet metal workers. These programs are important to creating great jobs for our state residents and strengthen our economy. HB 4058 will ensure that apprenticeship programs aren't overlooked.