



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 4121

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Barnhart

**House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Public Hearing and Possible Work Session, February 10th, 2014
5:30 p.m., Hearing Room D**

Good afternoon Chair Harker and members of the Committee. For the record, I am Chris Gorsek, State Representative for District 49, East Multnomah County.

We all know that childcare is expensive and unaffordable for too many Oregonians. In fact, childcare can cost nearly twice as much as college tuition at Oregon's public universities according to a 2013 report from the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership at Oregon State University.

Parents who are working hard to improve their lives should not be priced out of a higher degree because of the lack of affordable childcare in our state. As an instructor at Mt. Hood Community College, I see the need for these services and the obstacles facing my students every day. With targeted funding, we can start to overcome this barrier, support working families, and help more Oregonians better their lives.

In 2013, I was a chief sponsor of House Bill 3149, which created a task force to study the cost and potential funding sources for providing child care services to the students at community colleges. This session, I'm pleased we are considering House Bill 4121 to provide those resources and help more student parents achieve their goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4121 today.

