

## **HB 4058**

**Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek**

**Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development  
Public Hearing and Possible Work Session February 20, 2013  
1:00 PM, Hearing Room C**

Good Afternoon Chair Hass and Members of the Committee. For the Record, my name is Chris Gorsek. I am the State Representative for District 49 which includes the cities of Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and North Gresham. I am here today to speak in support of HB 4058 and the proposed -3 Amendment. This bill would specifically add Career Technical Education to Oregon's Educational Goals.

In 2011, the legislature approved what 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" include, we must make sure that critical training programs are not overlooked.

HB 4058 clarifies that apprenticeship programs are included in Oregon's plan for higher education moving forward. The -3 Amendment solidifies that the apprenticeship programs would have to be registered with the Bureau of Labor and Industries' Apprenticeship and Training Council and meet their standards. These important criteria will ensure that only the highest quality programs are accepted as a measure of higher education in our state.

Apprenticeship programs are a great fit for our education goals because these programs often take an equivalent amount of time as a college degree to complete, involve many classroom hours, and require mathematics knowledge, mechanical ability, problem-solving skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with a team. For some students taking advantage of these programs, college is not the right next step. But apprenticeship programs can offer them a continuing pathway into a high wage job.

As a community college instructor, I understand the place that workforce development programs play in strengthening our communities and creating well-paid jobs. In my district, we have three apprenticeship training facilities that prepare workers for such living wage jobs as electricians, carpenters, and sheet metal workers. HB 4058 and the -3 amendment will ensure that such apprenticeship programs aren't over looked as we work to meet our 40-40-20 goals and I urge you to support this important bill.