



Centro Latino Americano

Dedicated to the empowerment of the Latino community of Lane County since 1972

To: House Committee on Education

From: David Sáez, Executive Director,

Date: March 18, 2017

Re: Support for House Bill 2693

Chair Doherty and committee members,

On behalf of Centro Latino Americano, I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2693, which would establish a program under which Department of Education awards grants to school districts for percentage of certain student transportation costs. We must do all we can to ensure that high-school-aged youth have affordable access to public transportation.

Lack of access to transportation results in a reduced access to opportunity for youth in our community. They miss out on sports, tutoring, or other extracurricular activities; can't get to crucial after-school jobs; struggle to connect to health and social services; or suffer from chronic tardiness or absenteeism. The benefit also helps make it feasible for low-income families to purchase transit passes.

Oregonians value the freedom for all individuals to fulfill their potential. This applies to our youth, too. By supporting this bill, you make it possible for our youth to access opportunities that bring value to our communities. Please push forward this bill.

Sincerely,

David Sáez, Executive Director
944 W. 5th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402

dsaez@centrolatinoamericano.org

(541) 687-2667