



PROTECTING YOUR
RIGHT TO ROAM

To: House Committee on Education
From: Noel Mickelberry, Executive Director, Oregon Walks
Date: March 19th, 2017
Re: Support for House Bill 2693

Chair Dorothy and Committee Members,

On behalf of Oregon Walks, I am writing to urge your support of HB 2693, which establishes a program under which Department of Education awards grants to school districts for a percentage of certain student transportation costs.

Oregon Walks is the state's pedestrian advocacy organization. We work to ensure that walking is safe, convenient, and attractive for everyone. We believe that increased transportation mobility is an answer to access, and independence. For young adults in school, transportation barriers can be a major inhibitor to educational success, or even a direct cause of chronic absenteeism. The success of this program is documented across the state, but it requires continuous and dedicated funding.

Every student should have ample transportation options, and for youth who are dependent on walking and transit to meet their basic needs, this is a critical lifeline for success both in school, and in the community.

Please support HB 2693, a bill that will have a direct impact on our student's success, and improve transportation accessibility statewide.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Mickelberry".

Noel Mickelberry
Executive Director



**PROTECTING YOUR
RIGHT TO ROAM**