



Springwater Trail High School

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To: House Committee on Education

From: Ryan Blaszak

Date: March 20, 2017

Re: Support for House Bill 2693

Chair Doherty and committee members,

On behalf of Springwater Trail High School, 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.

Springwater Trail High School serves students throughout the Gresham-Barlow School District. Please support House Bill 2693 for the following reasons:

- It will help high-school-aged youth get to and from school and meet all their other needs, such as extracurricular and employment, through better access to transit and other transportation options. School districts can apply for grant funding to subsidize youth transit passes and/or increase transportation services to meet student needs, such as supporting authentic learning opportunities in the community.
- Students who don't have alternative transportation options are often limited because they don't have another way to get around. 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.
- Increased transportation mobility is an answer to access and independence.
- This will help students and families by:
 - Giving students the independence to get around when and where they need
 - Reducing tardiness and absenteeism, improving educational outcomes
 - Reducing parental burdens for working families
 - Better supporting single-car households

Thank you,

Ryan Blaszak, Principal
Springwater Trail High School