

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
on House Bill 2693**

March 22nd, 2017

**Gerik Kransky, The Street Trust,
(formerly The Bicycle Transportation Alliance)**

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today to urge you to support House Bill 2693. This bill would establish a new grant program to help fund school districts for certain student transportation costs. At The Street Trust, we advocate for healthy and thriving communities where it is safe and easy for people to bike, walk and ride public transit. This effort would help more students in Oregon access transit and we strongly support HB 2693.

This bill will help youth get to and from school and meet all their needs, such as extracurricular activities 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.

Students who don't have transportation choices are often limited because they don't have another way to get around. This approach will help students attend sports, tutoring, after-school jobs, and health and social services. It will help reduce chronic tardiness and absenteeism.

Increasing student transportation choices will improve their quality of life and independence. Please support HB 2693 to help students & 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 and no-car households

Thank you for considering our testimony in support as you discuss HB 2693.

Sincerely,
Gerik Kransky
Policy Director

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