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Dear Representative Doherty and Committee Members,

The Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) provides youth with a safe, affordable and convenient transportation solution on our public transit system. On average 7% of RVTD passengers are ages 16-18 and this number has grown each year. High School students are continuing to look for alternative transportation options to improve their access to destinations.

RVTD has several partnerships with alternative High Schools in the area that provide subsidized transit passes to their students. These are non-traditional students who are homeless, low-income or who have circumstances that create an everyday struggle in their lives. The bus pass provides them with independence and freedom. In October-December 2016 RVTD provided over 23,000 trips to these three alternative high schools.

RVTD is also providing a commuter route to the Rogue Community College that directly serves the three Medford School District High School campuses so the students have an easy transportation option to begin college credit programs. However not all students have access to subsidized transit passes and this limits their ability to access higher education, jobs and extracurricular activities.

The Youth Transit Bill will provide additional opportunities for Medford, Ashland, Central Point and other schools in the state to leverage funds in a new way and offer additional transportation for students.

Sincerely,

Julie Brown
RVTD General Manager