

From: Steph Noll
To: [HTP Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 3230
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:53:12 AM

Dear Members of the House Committee on Transportation Policy,

I write to ask that you please put your full support behind the passage of HB 3230 to support Safe Routes to School across Oregon.

After my children were born and began navigating the world on their own two feet (or sometimes bike wheels), I gained a whole new lens on my neighborhood streets. I suddenly found that streets and intersections that were relatively comfortable for me to navigate as an adult, posed a whole different threat to my children. Young children are smaller and harder to see, can act unpredictably, and just don't have fully developed street smarts, peripheral vision, or ability to judge distance and speed of approaching cars.

At the same time that I often experience fear in the 1-mile ride to school with my kindergartners each day, I also would never dream of taking that experience away from them. They arrive at school awake and ready to learn and proud of having made the journey. Whether or not it's the one day of the week that they have PE class or whether or not it's nice enough out to play outside during their after-school program, they get some physical exercise every single day.

My children have two working parents that can't shuttle them around to extracurricular activities, so being able to walk or ride to school together is so valuable to us.

I know that most neighborhood streets in Oregon are not as friendly to kids on bikes and on foot as our low-traffic commute is, and I know that most parents are not as confident walking and biking with their kids as we happen to be from years of daily walking and biking.

I believe that all Oregon families should have access to in-school bike and pedestrian safety education and to safe streets around schools.

If we invest in the safety of our youth, not only will our children lead more active, healthy lives, but the rest of us will also continue to enjoy safer neighborhoods long after our children have grown.

Please champion the passage of HB 3230, for my family and for all of Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

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