

From: Marina Hajek
To: [HTP Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB3230
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:07:28 PM

Dear members of the House Committee of Transportation Policy,

I am writing today to urge you to support HB3230 for Safe Routes to School funding. I had the opportunity to demonstrate my support for the Safe Routes to School funding in front of you earlier this year. It was emotional to talk in front of you about my son Vaclav Hajek whose life was taken away by a 16 year old speeding driver in 2007.

Unfortunately for me until after my son's death I got to learn how things get done concerning improvements for infrastructure and safety around schools and for the public in general.

Once you loose a son the way I did you start noticing more all of the dangers our kids are exposed to if they want to walk or bike to school. We as adults think that we can maneuver around those dangers, but some times it proves me wrong.

Shane MacRodes and other members of our community worked on improving the infrastructure of the road where my son was killed, and also improving the safety for children around the McCornack Elementary School. The heavy traffic was making it impossible for the children to walk or bike to school safely.

My son was growing up appreciating nature and the outdoors, walking to school, fishing, hiking among other activities. The very thing we were against killed him, we do not believe children should be driving in a early age, we believed there should be more trails for children to walk and ride bicycles not more roads, we believe in fresh air and appreciation of nature and our health.

We as members of our community should not be struggling to have a safe infrastructure and a healthy community, but it seems to me that after every death we have to fight for funds to fix the problem, and some times it doesn't get to be fixed.

With all due respect in the last two years when I got to listen Mr. Matt Garret the director of ODOT talk about safety on the streets and Safe Routes to School Program I hear NOTHING, ODOT seems to avoid the responsibility to provide safety for all users of the roads in our communities. Every time I hear him talking it seems to me that he thinks that someone else should take the responsibility to support such programs like Safe Routes to School.

I appreciate his expertise and hard work on providing a good infrastructure all over Oregon, providing roads to take the product produced here out to other markets as well as to make it possible to bring the products to us. I mentioned this because that is what I hear from him, working on good roads for a strong economy. ODOT needs to realized that we are the consumers and that we need to be able to access those goods safely as well as to go anywhere else.

For the good of our children and community please support HB 3230.

I am adding a couple of pictures of my son Vaclav.

Thank you very much.

Marina Hajek

For Every Kid Coalition

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