



April 12, 2017

Rep. Caddy McKeown, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation Policy  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Written Testimony on House Bill 3230 (HB3230)**

Too many neighborhoods lack safe sidewalks, bikeways, and crosswalks. Kids who can safely walk and bike to their neighborhood school get regular physical activity and perform better in school. The kids and families in Milwaukie and in Oregon are getting less exercise than any previous generation. One in three kids in the U.S. is overweight and unhealthy, conditions that lead to heart disease, diabetes, hypertension—and eventually early death. Something as simple as walking to school every day can make a big difference and isn't an option for many families in Oregon due to lack of critical infrastructure.

Safe Routes to School will:

- Build critical infrastructure like sidewalks, crossings, and transit access safe within the mile-radius of schools for families, grandparents, and kids.
- Empower families to take charge of their own health and safety with school-based education and encouragement programs.
- Prioritize students at low-income (Title 1) schools that most need safe streets and physical activity.

Children who walk, bike and roll to school get more physical activity, which improves their health and lowers their risk of obesity.

Academic performance is higher when children exercise before learning, while decreasing absenteeism and disciplinary problems.

When there are fewer cars on the road, we reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. The whole community benefits from safer walking and biking routes.

It's particularly important to me and my constituents that (1) enough funding is dedicated to build sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and transit improvements in a one-mile radius around schools; (2) there's a focus on investment in Title 1 schools where over 50% of students are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch; and (3) dollars are dedicated to expanding safety education and encouragement programs in the classroom.

I urge passage of HB 3230. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gamba'.

Mark Gamba, Mayor

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