



April 12, 2017

Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Transportation Policy  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair McKeown and Representatives,

Children First for Oregon is the primary source for data on the wellbeing of Oregon's 860,000 kids. Our program, United for Kids, works with partners like Street Trust, to make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

Upwards of 570,000 students attend K-12 schools in Oregon,<sup>1</sup> and about a third of them live within one-mile of their school.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, some students have more dangerous commutes to school than others. Students in low-income communities in Portland, for example, are 28 percent more likely to be in a collision while walking or biking a mile within their school compared to students commuting to schools in more economically secure communities.<sup>3</sup> Safe avenues to school play a big role in making a community stronger, children healthier, and roads safer for children throughout Oregon. A fully funded Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program provides parents, teachers, and students with the education and support to encourage safe school commutes and a lifetime habit of exercise while reducing congestion on our streets.

Presently, only 28 percent of Oregon's counties and 9 percent of its cities have at least partial SRTS coordinator support. This means that thousands of students at Oregon's public schools are missing out on a more active, safer commute. The state can address the needs of these children by continuing to invest in SRTS.

Children First for Oregon asks you to support HB 3230 and ensure that Oregon's families and children have a safe route to school as well as the commuting knowledge they need to be smart, safe commuters for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregon's kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tonia Hunt  
Executive Director  
tonia@cffo.org

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Education, 2014-15 Student Enrollment Report, available at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?ID=10407>

<sup>2</sup> Safe Routes to School, available at: [http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/introduction/the\\_decline\\_of\\_walking\\_and\\_bicycling.cfm](http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/introduction/the_decline_of_walking_and_bicycling.cfm)

<sup>3</sup> Oregon Safe Routes to School Network, 2016 Annual Report, available at: <http://www.oregonsaferoutes.org/images/stories/Content/WB/2016AnnualReport.pdf>