

**From:** Eric Wilhelm  
**To:** [HTP Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep Lininger](#)  
**Subject:** HB 3230 testimony in support of Safe Routes to School  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:26:04 PM

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Dear Members of the House Committee on Transportation Policy,

I am writing today to urge you to support HB 3230 for Safe Routes to School funding.

Parents and young drivers who choose to drive one or two miles to school create traffic hazards, congestion, and pollution. These impacts are unfair to other students, neighbors, and road users. With increasing traffic, a lack of sidewalks or comfortable bike infrastructure discourages parents and students from making this short, daily trip without a car. Every child has the right to safely walk or bike to school, and none should bear a cost of life, limb, or health for the convenience of those who choose to drive. Small children in particular need better road, sidewalk, and bikeway design to keep them safe from high-speed traffic and the threat of death or serious injury due to minor errors or careless drivers.

Not only will Safe Routes to School improve the safety for our kids, it will improve the well-being of ALL Oregonians. In the last two years alone, over 900 Oregonians were killed on our streets. That number needs to be ZERO.

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 decrease infrastructure maintenance costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Safe Routes is a wise investment in infrastructure and education.

Thank you,  
Eric Wilhelm  
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