

Good morning, Chair McKeown and Committee Members. My name is Kim Curley Reynolds. My address is 1310 NE Hollinshead Dr. in Bend Oregon. As a member of the For Every Kid Coalition, I am here representing parents and families all across the state and urge you to support House Bill 3230 and send it to the Ways and Means Committee with a recommendation to pass.

Since 2005 I have worked in rural and frontier parts of our state to encourage walking and biking to and from school. In the small cities and towns on the east side of the Cascade mountains, it is often a challenge to get active transportation trips into our everyday lives. People live far away from the places they are going. I have an 11 year-old son, Jak, who has been walking to school since he was 3 and continues to do so today-on his own. I feel that the safe route available to us in our neighborhood should be something every kid in Oregon should be able to enjoy. The independence he feels and the confidence it builds is amazing--and rare in our current society.

By increasing safety on streets around schools we preserve the livability of our communities. Even very rural communities can host Walk and Bike to School Day events, walking school buses and conduct bicycle safety education. These events and education encourage more children to get more daily physical activity, and we all know the benefits of that! We have a partnership in Bend with The Boys and Girls Club, OSU Extension Service, Housing Works and our local FQHC, Mosaic Medical, to recruit and train volunteers to walk with kids to Bear Creek Elementary, a bi-lingual Title 1 school. Seeing community partners and health care providers get behind Safe Routes to School is encouraging. Without funding for coordination, this work would not be happening.

Over 100 member agencies of the For Every Kid Coalition support House Bill 3230. In years past, SRTS programs were federally funded and provided millions to our state for infrastructure and non-infrastructure work to make biking and walking to school safe and enjoyable. Right now only \$500,000 is dedicated to SRTS programs, which is spread very thin over our big state, in fact 80% of our schools in Oregon do not have a SRTS program. The For Every Kid Coalition is asking for you to dedicate 10M for projects with in a one mile radius of schools and 6M for programs focusing all funds on schools that need it most, like Title 1 schools where 50% or more of students receive free/reduced lunch.

The For Every Kid Coalition and I urge you to support HB 3230 and send it to the Ways and Means Committee with a recommendation to pass.

Thanks for your consideration.

