

Good morning, Chair McKeown and Committee Members. My name is LeeAnne Fergason. I work with the Street Trust. I am here representing the 125 organizations and thousands of individuals that make up the For Every Kid Coalition. On behalf of everyone, I urge you to support House Bill 3230 and send it to the Ways and Means Committee with a recommendation to pass.

Over the past ten years, I have had the opportunity to teach walking and biking classes to thousands of kids, lead walking school buses, facilitate street safety needs assessments at schools, and organize walk to school days. I have celebrated with parents and students when street safety projects were built in a key locations to allow for a whole neighborhood of kids to walk to school. I have teared up with teachers as we watch students with learning difficulties thrive in a bicycle class. While walking to school with kids, I have watched them stop and smell flowers, point out friends and grandparents houses while exclaiming, I never knew they lived here! Safe Routes to School is so much more than words on a piece of paper, it's safe, healthy, happy kids, as well as teachers, parents, grandparents, and neighbors.

Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects alone can increase walking and biking to school by 20-25% and when you combine that with education and encouragement programs, 40% more kids will walk and bike to school. That's 40%

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more kids getting 66% of their daily recommended exercise, less parents dropping their kids off at school, and increased safety on streets around schools.

HB 3230 identifies general funds as the source for non-infrastructure programs like education and encouragement, however the For Every Kid Coalition supports House Bill 3230 and supports funding non-infrastructure programs from federal funds like the Transportation Alternative Program. In the past SRTS in Oregon was funded at the level of \$12M for infrastructure and \$4.7M for programs between 2008 and 2015. Currently \$500,000 is dedicated to SRTS programs and zero is dedicated to infrastructure. These past and current investments only reach about 20% of schools with a partial SRTS program. That is 80% of schools, 80% of kids that we are leaving behind. This bill will help close that gap by dedicating 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.

Thank you for your time.

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