



To: House Committee on Transportation Policy
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Re: House Bill 4130
Date: February 7, 2018

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Chair McLain and members of the House Committee on Transportation Policy:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4130.

HB 4130 is the culmination of the work done by the student transportation work group, which was first convened by Rep. McKeown during the 2015 legislative session. Under her skilled guidance, the workgroup brought together stakeholders from diverse policy areas, including state agencies, education associations, and transportation environmental advocates. The group was tasked to address a challenge facing communities statewide: how to safely and efficiently transport students to and from schools every day.

HB 4130 is the result of the many years of good work by this group. It would create a dedicated grant fund to be used by both transit and school districts to offset costs associated with transportation options that are alternative to the traditional school “yellow bus” option. The text of the bill is clear about what these options are, including items such as a city or county bus network, public fixed rail systems, and other mass transit district options.

OSBA members regularly mention student transportation as a bona fide challenge to student learning in school districts. Lack of reliable and consistent transportation to and from school damages student achievement. Furthermore, it disproportionately impacts traditionally underserved students negatively: students experiencing homelessness, students that experience poverty, and many other students that are, regrettably, less likely to achieve academic success in school.

HB 4130 is a practical, solutions-oriented bill that has the chance to tangibly impact student achievement positively. It is relatively low cost and could serve as a model for other similar programs in the future. OSBA supports passage of HB 4130.