



**OPAL**  
Environmental Justice Oregon

[opalpdx.org](http://opalpdx.org)

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Dear Chair McLain, Vice Chair Meek and Members of the Committee,

My name is Violeta Mata and I am a student who will benefit greatly from the passage of house bill 4130.

Public transportation is a lifeline of opportunity that benefits people of all ages, especially youth. Access to multimodal transportation means young people can become mobile and interdependent. Having access to public transit means having more opportunity to succeed.

Youth are fighting for better access to transportation options because we know that we are not just solving transportation problems, but intersectional ones. When we have access to public transportation, our schools, our economy, our environment and our communities all benefit.

Through transportation we can increased school attendance, access to academic supports, and extracurricular activities, all of which contribute directly to increased graduation rates. Oregon currently stands as the third worst graduation rate in the US. Solving this problem requires investment in communities who are currently overlooked.

Increased youth access to extracurricular, civic engagement, and job opportunities also benefit our workforce and technical skills and further career achievement. Youth transit access benefits our economy.

Our environment will benefit from Youth Transit Access. This bill provides youth with the experience of using public transit, cultivating the riders of the future. This leads to reduced dependence on cars and emission reductions in the long term.

Transportation options connect students to education, jobs, housing, healthy food options, social services and recreation. This bill means that, regardless of where you live, the color of your skin, or how much money your family has, youth can have the freedom of mobility and opportunity.

We hope that you support youth, and invest in Oregon's future by investing in us now. Transportation is a human right, and too many youth are being left behind.

Thank you.