

Submitter: Susan Wolling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3014

I strongly support HB3014 as a great investment in our children. My friends who are teachers tell me of the endless challenges they face, as they try to help kids who are restless, easily distracted, exhibit disruptive behavior unlike any their teachers have seen before, and too often are simply absent. Multiple studies have shown that children who walk or bike to school do better academically, show fewer behavioral problems, have fewer sick days, and arrive at school happy, healthy and ready to learn. HB 3014 enables schools to use existing funds to help kids and families experience these benefits from the simple act of getting to school under their own power.

Many students live quite close to their schools, yet don't walk or bike to school because they would have to navigate a dangerous intersection, cross a busy street or they simply don't have any experience in traveling city streets. These obstacles could be easily overcome with a crossing guard, a "bike bus" or a "walking school bus", and our kids would be safer, healthier and happier for it.

School buses remain an important part of transportation to school--yet in an age when it is nearly impossible to find enough drivers for these buses, we must look for other options--particularly when those options, like helping kids walk or bike to school, provide a myriad of other benefits, as well. HB3014 is a sensible way to help school districts serve their students and their communities better at no additional cost.