

February 19, 2023

Honorable Chair Courtney Neron and Committee Members,

This letter is in support of HB 2104.

Topics:

- **Biking and Walking to Schools creates citizens who know their neighborhood.**
- **Increases in youth activity will change the trend of more obese children becoming obese adults.**
- **The Adult obesity production over decades and City of Eugene Obesity map**
- **Give flexibility to School District to support life change active transportations skills to students**

The inclusion by HB 3014 using a partial amount of the

“reimbursement of costs Incurred by a school district in lieu of providing transportation, including public transit passes, payment for crossing guards or pedestrian or bicycle group leaders and payment for the promotion and coordination of alternative transportation options”

brings about a positive impact on students.

Biking and Walking to Schools Create citizens who know their neighborhood.

The impact of gathering students and supporting active transportation to and from school instantly teaches people what neighborhoods are. Cycling from home to school and back reinforces to be aware of who lives where, real distances, real weather. This mitigates the narrow understanding of sitting in a car looking at their phones as they are sequestered from their neighborhood to school. On the street knits the neighborhood map that being in car will never do in an efficient manner.

The importance of our society rewarding being active has suffered over the past 4 decades. The Pandemic has reinforced to a sorry conclusion.

Increases in youth activity will change the trend of more obese children becoming obese adults.

CDC Longitudinal trends in Body Mass Index & Covid -19 pandemic among Persons Aged 9-19 years:

Among a cohort of 432,302 persons aged 2–19 years, the rate of body mass index (BMI) increase approximately doubled during the pandemic compared to a prepandemic period. Persons with prepandemic overweight or obesity and younger school-aged children experienced the largest increases...

During March–November 2020, persons with moderate or severe obesity gained on average 1.0 and 1.2 pounds per month, respectively. Weight gain at this rate over 6 months is estimated to result in 6.1 and start highlight7.3end highlight pounds...

From Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC. Citation available from ajz@zelada.com

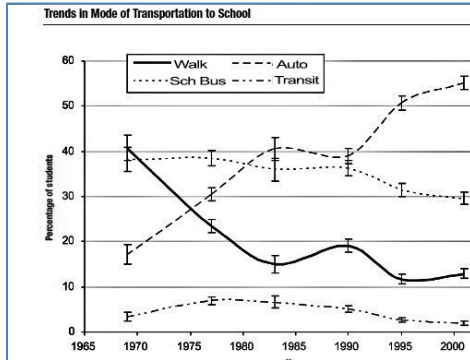
One third of Oregon children are on Medicaid and receive benefits from WIC, Women, Infants, and Children Program. As of Oct 2022, half of the children born in the US are served by WIC . Obesity rates below:





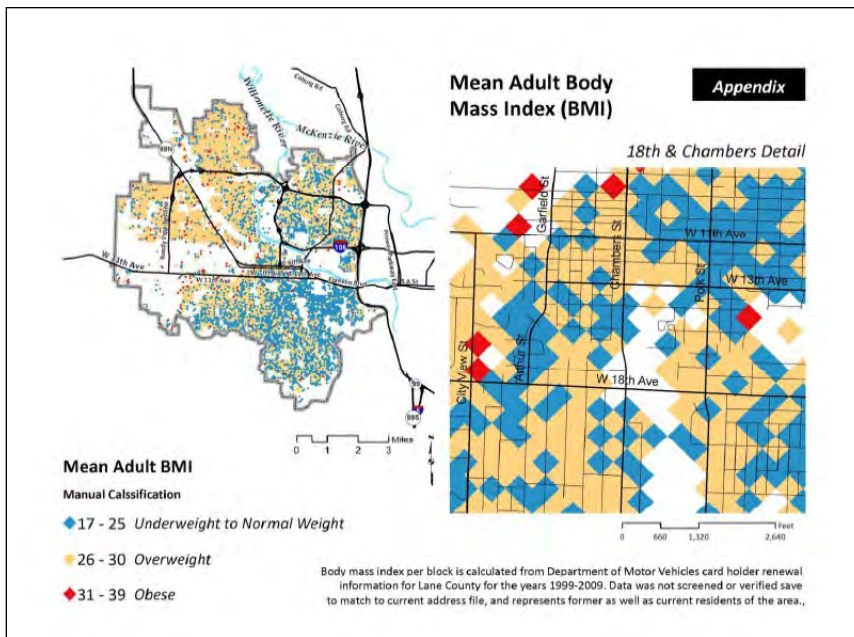
Above Graph of **Oregon data** from State of Childhood Obesity, an initiative of the Rbt Wood Johnson Foundation. Citation available from ajz@zelada.com

These trends of increasing individual weight are not new. Trends in Getting to school since 1965 (from Rutgers University)



The Adult obesity production over decades

- 6 states had an obesity prevalence of 35 percent or higher among non-Hispanic White adults.
- 15 states had an obesity prevalence of 35 percent or higher among Hispanic adults.
- 34 states and the District of Columbia had an obesity prevalence of 35 percent or higher among non-Hispanic Black



Oregon: 1986 < 10% obese
 Oregon 1990 < 14% obese
 Oregon 1997 < 19% obese
 Oregon 2003 < 24% obese
 Oregon 2010 < 30% obese

The US obesity in 2020 prevalence was 39.8% among adults aged 20 to 39 years, 44.3% among adults aged 40 to 59 years, and 41.5% among adults aged 60 and older.

Give School Districts Choices

This bill allows **the school district to make choices; It does not take money away from the School District.** Given the decline of students and parents using school buses, the bill does not penalize districts from having fewer school bus occupants nor the number of drivers (e.g. union associated bus drivers). In fact the school district is given the budget for transportation *per each eligible student* within specific radii from the school grounds no matter the actual school bus users. There are always more eligible riders than actual riders on the buses. This budget includes special need student transportation as well. Nothing in this bill suggests that the formula will be altered and thus reduce any educational transportation income.

This becomes important for many districts which are rural and /or have special needs transportation for students in their district. The school district can continue to serve those students as their priority paradigm.

In other districts where income per student capita continues as before and there are leaders who wish to creatively have cycling, walking, skateboarding 'buses;' the school district can support those activities. When one begins to query "did you use the school bus before you started biking to school?" the answer will be 'no, I came in a car.' Again this does not threaten the school bus driver's employment. If anything has reduced school bus engagement it is more and more parents driving their children to school.

Please support the children in being active, learning their neighborhood and understanding that being active is a lifelong skill making them better adults. What a better place to teach this lesson than on a bicycle seat surrounded by friends, new and old.

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References

CDC Childhood Obesity research

https://www.google.com/search?q=CDC+children+obesity+by+states&newwindow=1&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS846US846&sxsrf=AJOqlzXHvTsj1NTBXk0joVsrV-aUZ8CrCQ%3A1676836782491&ei=rn_yY53RHazm0PEPiLi60AU&ved=0ahUKEwid4JDmr6L9AhUsMzQIHQicDloQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=CDC+children+obesity+by+states&gs_lcp=Cgxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAQAzokCAAQRxDWBBCwAzoNCAAQRxDWBBDJAxCwAzolCAAQkgMQsAM6BwgjELACECc6CgghEKABEMMEEAo6BQgAEKIEOgoIABDxBBAeEKIESgQIQRgAUJUZW04qYOY0aAFwAXgAgAF1iAGHBZIBAzguMZgBAKABAcgBCcABAQ&scient=gws-wiz-serp

2021 Childhood Obese data by state

<https://stateofchildhoodobesity.org/state-data/?state=or>

CDC Behavioral Prevalence & Trends: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

<https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>

Adult Obesity Prevalence Maps

<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/prevalence-maps.html>

Number of States with High Rates of Adult Obesity More Than Doubles

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0927-states-obesity.html>

