

Submitter: Naomi Hemstreet
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3014

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, members of the committee,

My name is Naomi Hemstreet. I am 16 years old and live in Multnomah County. I am a climate justice advocate with Sunrise PDX.

I support HB 3014 because it gives schools the flexibility to invest in transportation that best suits the needs of their students and is better for our climate because of reduced carbon emissions.

For my whole life, I have been able to walk to school. I remember crisp mornings walking to elementary school, admiring the green leaves sprouting on trees and the azalea bushes pruned into perfect horseshoe shapes. I remember the freedom I felt walking home after school with my friends, trading stories about our days and hoping to reach our houses before the rain started. I remember walking to middle school, just a short distance away, every weekday morning and afternoon. I remember the crosswalks and crossing guards that made it safe for me to do so.

Now, I am a junior in high school, and I walk to my school every day. I like putting in my headphones and listening to music or an audiobook as I walk, the steady rhythm of my feet grounding me for the day ahead. I like walking home after school, letting the clear air and slight breeze wash away the stress of school. I appreciate that I have other options for getting to school too: that I can hop on my bike and coast down the hill when I am short on time, that I can use my school-provided Hop card to take the 75 bus when it is raining.

These methods of getting to school have been possible for me because my school district invested in crosswalks and free public transit passes for students. Students deserve to be able to get to school in ways that do not involve driving to school or taking a school bus, and school districts deserve to have the ability to spend state transportation funding in ways that will best serve their students. I want schools to have the flexibility to use funding in ways that best allow their students to reap the benefits of walking, biking, or taking public transit to school.

Additionally, the climate crisis is here, and each year brings more devastating effects. I have seen my community suffer from ice storms, heat waves, and wildfires, all of which are exacerbated by climate change. We will not be able to reduce our carbon emissions and meet our emission goals if we do not begin to invest in pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit infrastructure. There is no better way to start than with the

youth that will inherit this world.

HB 3014 is an inspiring, vital opportunity to invest in the students that are stepping into this world and our climate, which needs our protection now more than ever. I urge you to vote yes and invest in our futures.

Thank you.
Naomi Hemstreet
Portland HD 45