

Submitter: Joshua Zavertnik
On Behalf Of: Rachel Alek Ella Zavertnik
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3014

To the House Committee on Education-

We wanted to write to the committee in support the HB 3014. My wife and I have participated in the Alameda Bike Bus since it's inception in the spring of 2022. During this time we have witnessed an incredible transformation not only in our daughter but in our community. Our daughter, Ella, was initially reluctant to participate in the bike bus due to fear of hills, preferring to ride with me on the back of our cargo bike. However, it only took about two rides with me before she was eager to participate and join the growing number of kiddos and parents who were participating weekly. She has grown significantly more confident in her biking abilities and has only missed one bike bus since it has started. We are incredibly grateful that each week is a new opportunity for her to connect with her classmates, build a stronger sense of self-confidence, and engage in a healthy and active way to get to school.

Beyond the growth we have seen in our daughter, we have witnessed a community and school come together to support one another in a time where shared experiences and connection can be difficult to build and maintain. Our neighbors along the bike route line the streets each week to cheer on the students, banging pots and pans, ringing bells, or just letting out a good old fashioned hoot in support of their efforts. The smiles on the faces of not only the bike bus riders, but also our community and neighbors is incredibly heart warming.

We see tremendous value in HB 3014 because it would provide schools and communities with the opportunity to develop something similar or something that speaks to their hearts and allows for the children to find ways to connect, bond, and arrive to school safely. We hope you will see HB 3014 through to support the environment, our communities, our neighbors and the children we all love and care for.

With gratitude,
Josh, Rachel, Alek, and Ella Zavertnik