



# Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 3, 2023

TO: Rep. Pam Marsh, Chair  
Reps. Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, Vice-Chairs  
Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

FROM: Lauren Herbert, MD; Shaili Rajput, MD, MPH; Ellen Stevenson, MD, MPH  
Members of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3016 – Community Green Infrastructure

We are pediatricians and members of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We are writing in strong support of House Bill 3016, to strengthen the green infrastructure of Oregon communities.

The Oregon Pediatric Society's mission includes promoting the optimal health and development of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults in partnership with their families and communities. To meet this goal, we must protect the environments in which children live while promoting access to parks and green spaces which are essential to their health and wellness.

HB3016 would help support all communities in Oregon in developing green infrastructure projects. It would offer the opportunity to reduce the existing disparities between wealthy and poor communities in tree canopies and access to green spaces.

HB3016 describes some of the health benefits of this bill including climate change mitigation, air temperature regulation, air quality benefits, noise abatement, public or community health benefits, and local food sovereignty.

HB3016 would promote the creation of more green space, potentially including parks and green school yards which are so important for children's outdoor play. Contact with green spaces and the natural environment have many physical health and mental health benefits for children, with the strongest evidence for increased physical activity and improved cognitive, behavioral, and mental health. (Fyfe-Johnson, 2021)

Planting trees would temper the effects of climate change and improve air quality which are essential to the well-being of children and their communities. Trees help cool the environment through evaporating water from their leaves and by shading the earth from direct sunlight. Urban areas with more tree cover are cooler than those without. These tree-covered areas are unevenly distributed leading to differential health impacts in our communities.



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We all need healthy trees and green spaces, to give adults a better quality of life, and children a better chance to have a healthy and livable future. On behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society, we urge you to support HB 3016.

## References:

American Academy of Pediatrics. Climate and Health Campaign and Toolkit. 2023  
<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/climate-and-health/>

Climate Effects on Health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2022.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>

Fyfe-Johnson, et. Al, Nature and Children's Health: A Systematic Review. *Pediatrics*. 2021