

February 9, 2024

Dear Rep. Neron and members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing as a Wilsonville High School student in support of House Bill 4147. Allowing stop-arm cameras on the school buses will improve the safety of our students as they go to and from school. Drivers who blatantly ignore bus lights and stop-arms put students who are crossing the street in danger of being injured or killed.

There are two specific ways that this bill will keep students safer:

1. It will hold drivers accountable who choose to go around the stop-arm by taking a picture and sending the driver a ticket.
2. A camera acts as a repellent so drivers will think twice about driving around the stop-arm.

I am passionate about this bill passing because on October 15, 2021, I witnessed an aggressive driver speed past the bus stop-arm while one of my peers was exiting the bus. If that student had been crossing the road, he would have possibly been killed. It is important that drivers who ignore the law are held accountable. Allowing stop-arm cameras automates the accountability process so that the bus drivers can stay focused on the students and their on-board safety.

Other states that have implemented stop-arm cameras on school buses, including Washington and Idaho, have reduced crime by over 30% percent year after year, and 98% of drivers ticketed don't commit the crime again. This bill is ultimately about keeping the kids in our communities safer.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 4147. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Sype

Junior at Wilsonville High School