

Submitter: Andrea Vedder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3014

I urge you to support this measure. The problem this is addressing is real and happening every day: Children ages 5+ are biking or walking to school, sometimes completely alone, on and across busy streets.

A child who is so committed to coming to school that they get themselves there even when their parents/caregivers cannot escort them should be revered and protected. And communities are doing what they can with the resources they have: At my children's elementary school, the fifth graders are volunteering to be crossing guards so that the younger children can safely cross the street. This is the best we can do? As much as I appreciate them and their bravery, I do not want a 10-year-old standing in traffic to protect the crosswalk; I want a compensated adult who knows what it's like to drive a car to be the body in the street.

Have you had the chance to stand in front of a 2023 Toyota Tundra yet? Have you noticed that its grill is as tall as your neck? In modern roadways, children are especially vulnerable as pedestrians and cyclists.

Please take care of them. We are the adults who are responsible for protecting and guiding the generations coming up behind us.