



Good afternoon Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Robin Sack and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a 17 year old who is currently a junior at Grant High School and an organizer with Sunrise PDX. Our mission is to fight for climate justice in the city of Portland and state of Oregon. I have lived as a young person during a time of fatal climate disasters which show me my stake in the climate crisis. This, along with my love for taking the bus, is what brings me here today.

Every morning, I wake up at 6:25. I make my lunch, I squeeze all my folders into my backpack, and I walk to my bus stop.

Every afternoon, I get out of class at 3:30. I put my chair up on my desk, make my way through the hordes of other students, and I walk to my bus stop.

I have taken this bus two or more times a day since the beginning of the 2021-22 school year using the free Hop card provided to me through Portland Public Schools. This Hop card is a magic key that lets me experience things I wouldn't be able to if not for the investment PPS made.

My bus pass has been especially helpful as I continue my high school career. It's so beneficial to my education to be able to stay before and after school because of the independence my pass gives me. Just in the past year I have gotten to take part in the softball team, the co-ed soccer team, and an after school dance club using my pass. Without this flexibility I'd be reliant on a parent to transport me, preventing me from getting the most out of my high school experiences.

And it's not just that my bus pass is helping improve my present - it's an investment in my future as well. 40% of Oregon's reported carbon emissions are from transportation, and to dramatically lower our carbon emissions we **must** reduce how much we drive by investing in alternatives like transit and walkable communities. This bill is a great example of how education policymakers can make their first contribution towards reducing transportation-based carbon emissions and investing in student's futures.

With HB 3014, all school districts will be able to **choose** how to get students to school safely in order to learn and thrive. This can include safer bike routes to schools, crossing guards at busy intersections, or creating transportation groups that students can join and build community in. The Bike Bus in Portland is a heart-warming example of the latter option.

No matter how school districts choose to use increased flexibility to get students to school, we must take the steps needed to do so. I wish everyone had the chance to take the bus for free everyday like my classmates from my school district and I do, and have it be a door to discovering new, amazing things while also decarbonizing our transit systems.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 3014. Thank you.