

Submitter: Alex Baek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3014

I am writing today in support of HB 3014, allowing the State Board of Education to adopt rules that allow reimbursement for student transportation other than buses. Our family joined Mr. Balto on the first bike bus on Earth Day 2021. Since then, we, along with many of you, watched it explode in popularity, particularly coming out of the pandemic, when so many kids and families were looking for additional ways to reconnect. Aside from the mental health and environmental benefits, it gives everyone a sense of collective purpose and joy. The sad reality though, is that we live in a community that is privileged enough to have the time and equipment needed to make this happen weekly. Everyone - not just PPS, Portland, or even the State, deserves opportunities to travel to school safely in a way that encourages community and exercise. You can look 2 miles in any direction of Alameda and see the harsh reality of inequity. We support this bill for the kids and planet and cannot encourage you strongly enough to support this investment in them as well. This bill is a strong first step in leveling the playing field.