

Submitter: Ian Downard  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3014

My name is Ian Downard, I'm a parent volunteer for the bike bus at Alameda Elementary in Portland. I want to talk about the effects that active transportation has on our community. I've never seen something have such an intensely positive impact on community as our bike bus. Every week, people that live along our route come out to cheer students as they walk, run, and roll themselves to school. Elderly residents organize their morning routine to ensure they don't miss a chance to cheer on the students as they pass by their street. We literally "off-gas" smiles!

In the minutes between 8 and 8:30am the spectators, students, and chaperones share an experience that never would have been possible without active transportation.

We are very lucky in our school district. We have infrastructure such as neighborhood greenways that help provide safe routes to school. We have parent volunteers whose work schedules allow them the flexibility they need to commit to chaperoning the bike bus every week. We have an amazing faculty member who leads and organizes it all, on his own time, without any additional compensation from the school. All these factors have been critical to making active transportation available to our students. But the reality is, these advantages are not common.

Programs that rely on parent volunteers are not equitable because they exclude families that don't have flexibility in their work day. Low-income communities often have inadequate street infrastructure to provide safe routes to school, and they do not have the funding or staffing resources available to help kids actively transport themselves to school safely.

Passage of HB 3014 will help enable communities throughout our state realize the amazing benefits that active transportation can provide to not only students but also adult and elderly community members as well.

I urge you to support HB 3014.