COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of HB 3036

March 10, 2022

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26 and I am excited to present HB3036 to your committee today. **It is a bill that will allow stop arm cameras on school buses in the state of Oregon.**

I would like to thank my constituent, Sean Sypes, who brought this idea to me and my team. We got right to work for helping him turn his idea into the bill we are discussing today. You will hear from him in just a moment so I will let him tell you his experience that prompted him to look into this issue further.

But essentially, Sean helped us identify that Oregon does <u>not</u> allow school districts to have stop arm cameras. If an Oregon School District purchases a bus from another state and that bus happens to have stop arm cameras, for example, they must remove the stop arm cameras and may not use them. **This bill does <u>not</u> require stop arm cameras, but allows them. A state law is needed** so that districts may add them if they choose to.

A bill addressing this issue was also introduced In 2017; In the [HB2460 (2017) hearing](), **The Oregon Department of Education estimated at that time that there were more than 1,300 such traffic violations in a day in the 2014-15 school year.**[1] That bill took a slightly different approach to solving the problem. Our approach with the -2 amendment posted on OLIS, aims to respect our amazing bus drivers who work so hard every day to keep Oregon kids safe on their way to and from school. **With the -2 amendment we will hopefully support bus driver safety work, while also ensuring agreement that bus drivers are not automatically responsible for maintaining or operating the cameras.**

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[1] https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2017021018

Sean's story and motivation brought me back to my own days on my big yellow school bus. I remember, as a kid, when our school bus driver would look out for us and give the nod for us to cross the street when all was clear. I also remember a school bus driver once jumping up out of his seat during a stop, and frantically running down the center aisle of the bus asking us all to help him get the license plate of a car that had sped past our peers as they were crossing in front of our bus. He wanted to hold that car accountable. And while I don't believe we were able to successfully get the full license plate, **what I remember clearly is how much he cared that the driver of that car had put his riders in danger**.

According to a 2019 Stop Arm survey done by The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), "130,963 school bus drivers reported that **95,319 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2018-19 school year.**

HB 3036 would not only allow school districts to have school bus stop arm cameras in order to **record drivers who fail to stop** for bus safety lights, it would also allow them to be reported to law enforcement for a **traffic violation**. Out of the funds collected from fines, half will go to a **School Bus Stop Arm Camera Fund** which will allow Oregon school districts to work with ODE to fund, maintain, and install stop arm cameras. The -2 amendment ensures that interest earned within that fund stays in that fund to support such work. The other half of fines collected will go to the city, county or state depending on the type of court that processed the fine.

With HB 3036, **Oregon will join 24 other states who allow school bus stop-arm cameras** with similar laws that prioritize the safety of our students as they use our buses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support in passage of HB 3036.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood, Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain