



February 17, 2025

To: Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham

Re: SB 450 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and the Oregon Senate,

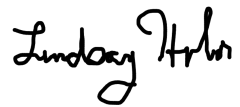
Ruby Bridges' story is a profound example of courage and perseverance. By making November 14th officially Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, Oregon would provide students with the opportunity to learn about the civil rights movement in an engaging and meaningful way. This day teaches students the importance of tolerance, respect, and standing up for what is right, all of which are crucial values to instill in today's youth.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day aligns perfectly with the goals of the Safe Routes to School program. Encouraging students to walk or bike to school on November 14th not only honors Ruby's legacy but also fosters healthy habits and safety skills. These events promote physical activity and independence, reduce traffic congestion around schools, and ensure safer streets for communities.

The Street Trust has been at the forefront of this event since 2021, working with partners to help hundreds of schools across the state host Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day events each November by providing materials to make hosting events fun and easy. In 2024, 170 schools participated, and this event is growing each year, showcasing the commitment of local communities and educators to build a more inclusive, engaged, and health-conscious student body. Schools use this day to host events that discuss the civil rights movement and the importance of justice and standing up for what's right. This day is more than just a walk, it's a chance to bring communities together, honor history, and empower the next generation.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, first celebrated in California and now embraced by communities nationwide, demonstrates how a simple, yet powerful initiative can drive positive change. By tying this observance to Safe Routes to School, we show how events can both inspire learning and encourage lifelong health and safety practices for students. These efforts contribute to a safer, more supportive environment for children and families across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Huber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay Huber
Deputy Director, The Street Trust

The Street Trust is a membership advocacy organization representing street users from across Greater Portland regardless of mode. We work to break political gridlock and win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects.