

April 15, 2025



Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR, 97301

RE: Testimony regarding HB 2945

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the Committee,

As the Transportation Advocacy Manager for Neighbors for Clean Air, a statewide advocacy organization that has worked to protect public health from toxic air pollution for over 15 years, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2945, which represents a crucial opportunity to protect the health of children across our state.

Each school day, more than 300,000 children in Oregon rely on school buses to get to and from school. Yet, the vast majority of these buses still run on diesel fuel—a toxic pollutant and known human carcinogen. Diesel exhaust is directly linked to asthma, bronchitis, heart disease, and developmental challenges in children.

Zero-emission school buses offer a proven and immediate way to reduce children's exposure to these harmful emissions. They eliminate tailpipe pollution entirely, allowing kids to ride to school without inhaling toxic fumes that can harm their lungs and learning potential. HB 2945 would help ensure school transportation lives up to its purpose: getting kids to school safely.

At Neighbors for Clean Air, we believe clean air is a fundamental right—not a privilege determined by ZIP code. For too long, frontline communities—especially low-income families, communities of color, and neighborhoods located near highways and transportation corridors—have borne the brunt of air pollution in Oregon.

In its original form, HB 2945 took a vital step toward addressing these disparities by directing at least 40% of program funding to school districts serving disproportionately impacted communities. Although the -1 amendment removed this provision, as conversations around this topic and the bill continue, I hope that this issue of equity-based allocation is not left behind. We must put health and justice at the center of Oregon's transportation future and tell every child in our state: your health matters.



We urge you to support HB 2945 - with a continued and deliberate emphasis on equity in its implementation- to ensure that all children—no matter where they live—can breathe easier on their way to school.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mackenzie Springer  
Transportation Advocacy Manager  
Neighbors for Clean Air