

April 28, 2025

**RE: Edits to HB 2530**

Dear Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

While I am supportive of reforming Oregon's school bus traffic safety camera law, I would like to flag the following issue below.

As currently written, I believe HB 2530 would require a photograph of the driver of the vehicle illegally overtaking a school bus to be taken in order for section 6(a) in the bill to make sense. As an advocate for traffic safety cameras that increase pedestrian safety across the U.S., requiring a driver photo to be taken is problematic for two reasons:

- 1) Requiring a photo be taken of the driver inside of the vehicle goes against national best practices that recommend a photo of only the vehicle and license plate be taken to protect driver privacy. Since 2020, my team has tracked 31 statutory changes authorizing new traffic safety camera programs in 17 states. 100% of these new authorizations prohibit driver facial shots due to privacy concerns and require only a photo of the vehicle and license plate during an infraction.
- 2) Many private vendors that offer school bus traffic safety camera services do not have the ability to capture photos of the driver and/or inside of the vehicle due to camera placement on a school bus. Unlike traditional red light or speed safety cameras, school bus safety cameras have a unique positioning that makes capturing the inside of the vehicle illegally overtaking the bus either very difficult or impossible.

Regarding the photograph of the driver issue, I propose the following edits to the bill language for your review and consideration:

(b) "Stop arm camera" means a video recording device that is installed on a school bus for the purpose of recording ~~drivers vehicles that who~~ fail to stop for bus safety lights in violation of ORS 811.155 and that is capable of recording the date, time, registration plate number and location of the offense.

(e) A ~~driver registered owner~~ issued a citation under this subsection may respond to the citation by submitting a certificate of innocence or a certificate of nonliability under subsection (6) of this section or may make any other response allowed by law.

(5) A citation may be delivered by mail or otherwise to the registered owner of the vehicle or to the driver. The citation may be prepared on a digital medium, and the signature may be electronic in accordance with the provisions of ORS 84.001 to 84.061.

(6)(a) A registered owner of a vehicle may respond by mail to a citation issued under subsection (4) of this section by submitting, within 30 days after the mailing of the citation, a certificate of innocence swearing or affirming that the owner was not the driver of the vehicle and by providing ~~the driver license number, name and address of the driver a photocopy of the owner's driver license~~. A jurisdiction that receives a certificate of innocence under this paragraph shall dismiss the citation without requiring a court appearance by the registered owner or any other information from the registered owner other than the certificate of innocence and the photocopy ~~and may reissue the citation to the driver named in the certificate of innocence. If the named driver within 30 days after the mailing of the citation submits a certificate of innocence, t~~The citation may be reissued only ~~once, only~~ to the registered owner ~~and only if the named driver in the jurisdiction verifies that the registered owner appears to have been the driver at the time of the violation~~. A registered owner may not submit a certificate of innocence in response to a reissued citation.

Thank you for your consideration as we work to ensure this reform bill will help optimize school bus traffic safety programs for Oregon's school districts and students.

Best,

Emily Smith

424-272-7041

Families for Safe Schools