

Submitter: Kendsie Channing  
On Behalf Of: Shift Community Cycles  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1601 and the -3 amendment. Oregon should not balance its budget at the expense of schoolchildren, disabled neighbors, or communities already facing rising costs of living, unemployment, and climate impacts.

For my family, this issue is not theoretical. I ride my bike to work, to take my kids to school, and to participate in the local economy. We depend on safe crossings, sidewalks, and neighborhood paths every single day. Those investments are not luxuries — they are what allow my children to get to school safely and allow me to get to work on time. Without them, we would be forced into a system that is more expensive, less safe, and not accessible for our family.

By gutting programs like Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths, the state is creating permanent barriers for low-income workers, seniors, disabled Oregonians, and families like mine. In a shaky economy, we should be expanding safe and affordable transportation options — not cutting them.

Safety is not negotiable. This proposal takes \$17 million from Safe Routes to School and \$8 million from Oregon Community Paths — more than 60% of both programs' budgets. These funds build the crossings, sidewalks, and paths that allow children to reach class without risking their lives. Investing in the next generation through Safe Routes to School is one of the smartest, most responsible things we can do for the future of Oregon. When kids can safely walk and bike, they build lifelong habits, reduce congestion, and support healthier communities.

These programs were built with broad bipartisan support because they work. They lower household transportation costs, reduce pollution, connect rural communities, and improve safety for everyone. Cutting them undermines stated legislative priorities to reduce costs for Oregonians. These cuts are not a sustainable solution. The short-term savings are minimal, but the long-term costs — in crashes, pollution, health care, and lost economic opportunity — will be far greater. This cut kicks the can down the road.

Please reject SB 1601 and the -3 amendment. Do not balance this budget on the backs of children, families, and those who already face the greatest barriers to safe

mobility.

Sincerely,  
Kendsie Channing  
Executive Director, Shift Community Cycles;  
Community Member from Eugene, OR