

Submitter: Amelia Cuomo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Safety is not negotiable. The state is taking \$17 million from Safe Routes to School and \$8 million from Oregon Community Paths. That is more than 60% of both programs' budgets. This funding builds the crossings, sidewalks, and paths that allow children to get to class without risking their lives. The proposed budget cuts are not a long-term, sustainable solution. When budgets get tight, there is always pressure to raid smaller programs because they look like easy targets. But focusing on these line items is like stepping over dollars to pick up dimes. The immediate savings are tiny, but they create much higher costs later.