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To: Chair Dorothy

From: José R. García

Date: March 3, 2017

Re: Support for House Bill 2693

Chair Dorothy,

As a high school student I was involved in several after school activities. On a typical day I would have to skip the afternoon school bus to stay at school for sports practice, club meetings, or help with homework. I lived a little over two and a half miles away and many times my parents were not available to pick me up from school because they had to work late. It became normal for me to walk home for an hour even in the pouring rain. My last two years of high school I was fortunate enough to benefit from a program that Cherriots was offering at schools in which a teacher could offer you a bus pass to get you home. This made my life so much easier because I no longer had to decide whether to participate in after school programs and walk home, or take the school bus and miss out on extracurricular activities.

Today I work with middle school and high school youth in Yamhill County and I have noted that transportation is a barrier to many students for their involvement in afterschool programs. I would respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2693, which would establish a program under which Department of Education awards grants to school districts for percentage of certain student transportation costs. This bill has the potential to help high-school-aged youth get to and from school to meet some of their needs, such as extra-curricular activities and employment through more reliable options for transportation. Working families would greater benefit from this bill because it would allow them for more flexibility with their time and modes of transportation for their kids.

Please support House Bill 2693 to improve transportation options for youth.

Thank you,

José R. García