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February 25, 2013

Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Members,

I am writing on behalf of the statewide [Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition](http://www.copcwa.org) where we are always on the lookout for policy solutions that make the healthy choice easier for our children and all WA citizens. **We are in support of SB 5506 and encourage you to vote this bill out of committee this week.** This bill provides a minimum amount of federal and state funding for the extremely popular and effective "Safe Routes to School" (SRTS) program.

The program's main goal is to support development of school zones that are safe for students walking and biking to school. The individual and societal benefits to securing base funding for this extremely popular program are both clear and positive:

- SRTS programs are increasing children's walking and bicycling to school where the funding has reached, but there are many more worthy applications that are going unfunded.
- Daily physical activities like walking or biking to school are needed for our youth. The health benefits are clear and it also enables students to be ready to learn.
- Providing safe access for our students is particularly important in disadvantaged communities. Low-income populations may be more likely to walk for transport and have more exposure to traffic hazards, making these SRTS programs invaluable.

If this bill is unable to make it out of committee this week, we would then strongly suggest that the critical concepts in this bill are placed in the annual transportation budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, JD
Director, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Kelly Simpson, Staff Coordinator – Senate Transportation Committee

COALITION MEMBERS

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD COALITION
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOC. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS -- WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (WA CHAPTER)
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION
BICYCLE ALLIANCE
CAMP FIRE USA CENTRAL PUGET SOUND COUNCIL
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION
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COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (C.H.E.F.)
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY CHOICES (CLARK COUNTY)
FEET FIRST
GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE
HOPE HEART INSTITUTE
LET’S MOVE CHENEY
MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS
NUTRITION FIRST
ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN’S CLINIC
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE
SCHOOL’S OUT WASHINGTON
SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
SKAGIT COUNTY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROJECT
SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
TREE SWING
WASHINGTON ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS
WASHINGTON COALITION FOR PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON HEALTH FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
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WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON STATE PTA
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WASHINGTON SUSTAINABLE FOOD & FARMING NETWORK
YAKIMA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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