January 21, 2014

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

Dear Members,

I am writing on behalf of the statewide Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition 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 6227 and was pleased to be able to provide testimony at the hearing earlier today.

We need all sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we develop transportation policy has a direct impact on individual behavior. Creating safer streets through this bill will make walking and biking more attractive – a great example of making the healthy choice easier in our state.

Our current Distracted Driving laws sorely need updating. Providing our traffic safety community with 21st century tools to combat our explosive and dynamic communications technology is part of the healthy communities toolbox.

We need solutions that can calibrate a traffic safety system that encourages use of our roads works for everyone, including walkers and bikers. SB 6227 can improve both public health and safety. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, JD
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Cc. Kelly Simpson, Staff Coordinator – Senate Transportation Committee
COALITION MEMBERS:
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
Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council
Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation
Forterra
Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (C.H.E.F.)
Children’s Alliance
Feet First
Group Health Cooperative
Hope Heart Institute
Let's Move Cheney
MultiCare Health Systems
Nutrition First
Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic
Public Health Roundtable
Physical Therapy Association of Washington
School’s Out Washington
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
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
Washington Action for Healthy Kids
Washington Assoc. of Community & Migrant Health Centers
Washington Bikes
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
Washington Dental Service Foundation
Washington Health Foundation
Washington Recreation & Park Association
Washington School Nutrition Association
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officers
Washington State Dairy Council
Washington State PTA
Washington State Public Health Association
Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
YMCA – Greater Seattle