

Support for HB0136 - Safe School Route Evaluations

Dear Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to express support for HB0136, Safe School Route Evaluations, sponsored by Representative Melissa Ballard, which the Education Interim Committee is scheduled to hear tomorrow.

As you're likely aware, West Jordan is the third largest city in our state. **However, what may not be widely recognized is that our city boasts the highest number of elementary schools in the entire state.** Each year, West Jordan collaborates with dedicated educators and community councils to develop more than 30 safe walking route plans. Considering the scale of this task and the limited resources at our disposal, the responsibility becomes truly significant. That is why the language in HB0136 holds such importance to us.

I commend Representative Melissa Ballard for her steadfast commitment to ensuring the safety of Utah's children. With increasing challenges posed by growing populations, traffic and urban planning, her concern over safe walking routes is understandable.

I would like to extend gratitude to Representative Ballard for her open-mindedness and collaborative spirit on this issue. While working with her on behalf of the Utah League of Cities and Towns on this legislation last year, it became evident to me that she recognizes the significance of working hand-in-hand with organizations affected by changes to safe walking route evaluations. **Her willingness to actively engage with stakeholders, hear their concerns, and address challenges demonstrates a level of leadership that our community greatly appreciates.** Representative Ballard has shown an impressive ability to incorporate valuable feedback into her legislation while still keeping the core objective intact.

As the government relations liaison for the City of West Jordan, I am pleased to affirm our city's support for Representative Ballard's HB0136, as it stands. The proposed legislation aligns closely with our shared values of safeguarding our children's well-being and nurturing a community that thrives on safety, education, and collaboration.

I urge you to support Representative Ballard's legislation tomorrow and trust that your wise judgment will lead to the continued betterment of our city and state. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information or have questions about our position on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Tauni Barker



Tauni Barker
Director, Public Affairs
City of West Jordan
cell: 801-824-0029
w: westjordan.utah.gov