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Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

SB65-Counties: Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks- Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools

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POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

I am writing to you as a disability advocate and mother of a child with physical disabilities. I wanted to thank you for your interest and work around sidewalks and crosswalks as safe alternative routes to public schools. I am equally concerned about this as it relates to students with physical disabilities who may need to use sidewalks that are ADA compliant and accessible for electric wheelchairs, adaptive strollers or walkers.

Sidewalks can be very difficult to navigate for people with disabilities when the pavement ends into a curb or a resident's driveway. Similarly, this can also happen as pavement is uneven in a crosswalk area or curbs do not have a safe slope leading into a crosswalk. There are students who are "walkers" to school due to close proximity to a school building and students with physical disabilities who can navigate sidewalks and pathways independently, or with assistance, need provisions to ensure access.

I would like to propose that language be added to this bill as stated above and to include ADA compliance and accessible side walks and cross walks as people with disabilities are in need of these considerations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori E Scott