

**HB 1296:** Preliminary Subdivision and Site Plans – Safe School Route Reports – Requirement: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1296**.

As new housing continues to be built in communities, many families with school-aged children move into areas where safe walking or biking routes to school do not exist or are inadequate. This creates real dangers for students—risking pedestrian accidents, forcing reliance on cars (increasing traffic congestion), or discouraging physical activity. Requiring a Safe School Route Report is a proactive, commonsense step to ensure that growth does not compromise child safety. It encourages developers to incorporate safe pedestrian infrastructure from the start, reduces long-term costs for retrofits, and protects our children while supporting smart, family-friendly development.

**This targeted requirement places a reasonable planning responsibility on developers without halting housing construction—it simply ensures that new neighborhoods are designed with student safety in mind.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1296** and help require Safe School Route Reports for new developments near schools.

Thank you for your attention to this important child safety and responsible growth legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals