



Office of Representative Courtney Neron

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2024

Press Contact:

Marcella Martinson

rep.courtneyneron@oregonlegislature.gov

State House Passes Neron's Bill To Increase Student Safety

The bill would assist the enforcement effort around issuing citations to drivers who illegally ignore the stop sign and flashing lights and pass stopped school buses.

SALEM, Ore - Three-term state legislator Rep. Courtney Neron (D-Wilsonville), a parent and educator focused on community and student safety, introduced [House Bill 4147](#), which allows automated stop arm cameras to be installed on school buses. On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the House Education Committee passed the legislation. Today, it was passed with 49 votes and now heads to the Senate.

A 2023 nationwide survey of bus drivers shows concerning data. Across the country, over 62,000 vehicles unlawfully overtook school buses within a one-day survey period. Oregon-specific data showed that our bus drivers documented **1,427 stop arm violations in a single day** - a staggering number of violations.

“Currently, the primary safety mechanisms are provided by the bus’s stop arm and flashing lights, along with the vigilance of the bus driver,” said **Rep. Courtney Neron (D-Wilsonville)**, chief sponsor of the bill. “While these measures are essential, they should not necessarily operate in isolation. I believe this bill provides an opportunity to allow districts to embrace existing technology to augment safety for our children and communities.”

House Bill 4147 removes the current prohibition in Oregon on stop arm camera use and allows (but does NOT require) school districts to partner with law enforcement. This concept opens the door to a safety framework that combines human vigilance with technological capability. Signage that a stop arm camera is in use will be required to be posted on the school bus and the State Board of Education will adopt standards for the signage.

HB4147 has broad, bipartisan support in the legislature and from law enforcement: “This bill would provide an additional tool to hold motorists accountable for violations of the law that put students at risk and we believe the law will result in better awareness of the law and decreased

violations,” said Ty Hanlon, Chief of Police, City of Sherwood, in written testimony submitted in support of the bill.

HB 4147 is one of Rep. Neron’s priority bills this session. To learn more about her legislative priorities this session, visit [Representative Courtney Neron Home Page \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#).

###