



**Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Stockton**  
*Help for Today...Hope for Tomorrow*

**BOARD MEMBERS** June 15, 2016

**Bishop Stephen E. Blaire**  
*President*  
The Honorable Jim Beall  
Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916-445-2209

**John M. Solis**  
*Board Chair*  
*SJ Work Net*  
*Executive Director*

**Msgr. John Armistead, S.T.L.**  
*Vice Chair*  
*Cathedral of the Annunciation,*  
*Pastor*

**RE: Support for AB 2222 (Holden, Gonzalez) — Discounted Student Transit Passes**

Dear Senator Beall,

**John Curtis, CPA**  
*Treasurer*  
*Boss Deller and Co.*

**Dr. Elmano Costa**  
*Secretary*  
*CSU, Stanislaus*

**Dillon Delvo, MA**  
*Little Manila Foundation*  
*Executive Director*

**Claudia Moreno**  
*SUSD*  
*Outreach Consultant/*  
*Dropout Prevention Specialist*

**Don Geiger**  
*Kroloff, Belcher, Smart,*  
*Perry & Christopherson*  
*Attorney at Law*

**Gregory Oliver**  
*Gregory Oliver Law Offices*  
*Mi Wuk Village*  
*Attorney*

**John Souza**  
*Retired Teamsters Labor*  
*Representative*

**Odette Fattal**  
*Business Owner*

**Elvira Ramirez**  
*Executive Director*

The Environmental Justice Program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton is writing to ask you to support the creation of a program to provide discounted student transit passes to low-income K-12 and public college and university students statewide as outlined in AB 2222 (Holden and Gonzalez) using money from the GHG Reduction Fund. We see this as a way to make student transit passes more affordable, to increase student transit ridership, and to reduce VMT and GHG emissions. This is also a critical way to support our low-income families for whom transportation is a significant barrier to opportunity.

Student transit pass programs would be key not only to “growing” transit riders but also to cultivating a transit-oriented culture among young people: If riding transit is made easy and affordable for students to take to school and to work they are likely to begin making decisions about where to live and work based on the proximity of transit, which will in turn help promote the land use and development patterns that will support even greater transit use and GHG reductions.

Parents driving students to school are a major source of traffic congestion and emissions in many communities. And there are disadvantaged students all over California who have to choose between buying a transit ticket or buying lunch, and if they are hungry they are less likely to perform well in school. For these reasons student transit pass programs can both reduce congestion and lead to better education outcomes.

A study of 35 student transit pass programs across the U.S. by UCLA researchers in 2001—including Distinguished Research Professor Donald Shoup of UCLA—found these programs saved students on average \$2,000 a year (which equates to \$2,677 in 2016 dollars according to the American Institute for Economic Research). The study also found these programs increased student ridership by 70%-200%, and that paying the fare for a student who rides the bus to campus costs far less than subsidizing the parking for a student who drives.



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Again, for all of these reasons we urge you to support AB 2222 as an excellent and appropriate use of funding from the Cap & Trade program that would help achieve many of the goals set by state leadership.

**John M. Solis**  
*Board Chair  
SJ Work Net  
Executive Director*

Thank you for your consideration,

**Katelyn Roedner Sutter**  
Environmental Justice Program Manager

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