

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5374L.011

1 **Whereas**, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens
2 of Missouri; and
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4 **Whereas**, promoting safe and healthful walking and bicycling to school is
5 important to Missouri students, parents, and teachers, and has been shown to improve student's
6 health and academic performance; and
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8 **Whereas**, hundreds of children could be saved from harm each year if communities
9 take steps to make pedestrian safety a priority; and
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11 **Whereas**, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic
12 congestion and air pollution, creating over 25% of community traffic at the beginning and end
13 of each school day; and
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15 **Whereas**, lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity,
16 diabetes, and other health problems among children, and walking or bicycling to school offers
17 an opportunity to build healthful physical activity into a child's daily routine; and
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19 **Whereas**, the number of children walking and bicycling to school has decreased
20 dramatically in recent years, with less than 10% of students walking or bicycling to school now
21 compared to 50% just 30 years ago; and
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23 **Whereas**, the MoDOT Safe Routes to School program is helping dozens of
24 Missouri communities make the neighborhoods near their schools safer and more inviting for

25 walking and bicycling, and developing programs to encourage parents and students to walk and
26 bicycle to school; and

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28 **Whereas**, an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about
29 pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their
30 trips to school each day and the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and
31 air pollution; and

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33 **Whereas**, community members and leaders should make a plan to make immediate
34 changes to enable children to safely walk and bicycle in our communities and develop a list of
35 suggestions for improvements that can be done over time; and

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37 **Whereas**, children, parents, and community leaders around the world are joining
38 together to walk to school and evaluate walking and bicycling conditions in their communities;
39 and

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41 **Whereas**, Walk and Bicycle to School Month in October and Walk and Bicycle
42 to School Week the first week in October have proven to be helpful in encouraging children to
43 safely walk and bicycle to school and in creating and promoting local Safe Route to Schools
44 programs across the United States and throughout the world:

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46 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
47 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
48 concurring therein, hereby recognize the month of October 2008 as "Walk and Bicycle to School
49 Month", the week of October 6-10, 2008, as "Walk and Bicycle to School Week", and October
50 8, 2008, as "Walk and Bicycle to School Day" in Missouri; and

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52 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly urges all students, parents,
53 teachers, administrators, schools, and school districts to participate in these events.

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