

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
ROOM 2163 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 12, 2003

**Cosponsor PACE**  
***Help America's kids lead healthier, happier lives.***

Dear Colleague:

We've all seen the statistics. We've all seen the evidence. America's children are spending more time indoors. They are watching TV or playing computer games. Even the short trip to school is being taken in the back seat of the family minivan. More and more children in this country suffer from obesity.

Do you remember when kids played outdoors, in the fresh air and sunshine? Do you remember when kids walked or biked to school, getting the benefit of exercise along the way? Those days may be coming back.

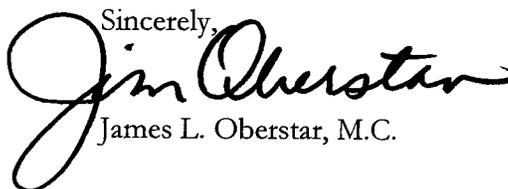
I am writing today to ask you to join me as an original cosponsor of the Pedestrian and Cyclist Equity Act of 2003 (PACE). PACE encourages children and adults to reacquire themselves with the joys of human-powered transportation. It helps communities to provide the infrastructure that makes going places by foot or bicycle fun again -- and safe.

The heart of this legislation is the establishment of a national Safe Routes to School program, providing funds for facilities and technical assistance to communities to encourage children to walk or bike to school in a safe environment. The bill provides a minimum apportionment of \$2 million a year for each state for this purpose.

However, PACE goes beyond the needs of schoolchildren. It establishes a Transportation and Active Living program to help create safe, walkable and bikeable communities throughout the country. And it establishes a Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot program to build sidewalks, paths and bikeways linking homes, schools, businesses, civic facilities and public transit.

The programs created by PACE can reduce pollution and energy costs as well as encourage our citizens, young and old, to get out in the fresh air. Most importantly, it can get kids back into the habit of walking and biking for fun and transportation. With this bill we can change the lifestyle habits of an entire generation.

For more information, a copy of the bill, or to join me as a cosponsor, please call Eric Van Schyndle of the Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee staff at ext. 5-9989.

Sincerely,  
  
James L. Oberstar, M.C.