

I have taught at "the poor school" in Bend for 20 years. That's how I became involved with Latino families. Now I am a board member, volunteer, and donor of the Latino Community Association in Bend. I also meet with a group of advocates called the Immigrant Family Advocates to track people arrested, put on ICE holds, and deported from my home town. We have learned a lot. I have received calls from so many hard-working family members because their car has been towed and they have been arrested for not having a license. I work hard to get them bicycles from a cool group who fixes up discarded bikes and donates them to those with little means, but some jobs require driving. I've been with families as they get their cars out of hock at the towing companies. In order to do so, they buy a short term insurance policy, and, of course, pay a steep fine. (Often they are stopped for "crossing the white solid line", which no Anglo person I've asked knows about.) The official charges are always for driving without a license. Often they are deported, at great emotional and financial cost to their families. By the way, I do not blame any police officers. I don't think they understand the situation and I think sometimes they are fearful of immigrants.

My concern is that sometimes people making decisions haven't worked with the people with the problem.

Let people pass a test on driving, get permission to drive and to get insurance, and let's not use the driver's license as identification. It will make our communities safer. We will know that people on the road have passed a test and they will have the ability to purchase insurance.

I am glad to provide further information if other senate or house members are interested. The important thing, again, is to talk to people who are involved and who are not making decisions based on assumptions or urban myths.

Thanks for your support. I so appreciate your compassion and insight.

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