

TO: Senator Lee Beyer, Chair, Senate Business and Transportation Committee; Vice-Chair, Senator Bruce Starr and Senators Chris Edwards, Fred Girod, Rod Monroe and Chuck Thomsen

FROM: Dr. Patricia J. Rumer, Portland, Oregon

RE: Support for SB 833

DATE: April 10, 2013

I am writing in support of passage of SB 833 that will ensure public safety for all by providing a short term driver's license or permit. Several years ago when I went to renew my driver's license, I was stunned to learn the new rules required a passport, social security and other forms of identification. When I asked the DMV staff person for an explanation, she directed me to the brochure with the new rules. The reality is that the "revised rules" requiring additional proof of residence are a burden on various people – college students who do not have these documents and their parents may or may not be able to locate them; homeless persons or persons without a permanent address and many low income workers who cannot afford a passport.

My major concern is that of public safety. I pay for my insurance policy and I want to be assured that other drivers have permits or licenses to drive and have taken driving lessons or passed a driver's test. It only makes sense to provide this safety measure for all of us who drive in the state. If one is in an accident with an uninsured driver, although your insurance may cover the damage, it still appears on your record.

I am an adjunct professor at Portland State University teaching senior Capstones. This past winter term my students worked with Adelante Mujeres, a non-profit in Forest Grove, Oregon that educates and supports immigrants to get their GED, learn skills to start businesses, and provides outstanding preschool education for their children to be ready for Kindergarten. The PSU students were amazed to learn the impact of lack of access to driver's license on not only family life but the parents' ability to drive their children to school, medical appointments or in case of family emergencies. Immigrants want to work and many do in vital agricultural industries to the state of Oregon.

I urge you to support this legislation and make Oregon's roads safe for all drivers. Thank you for your attention to this letter of support.