

Written testimony in favor of SB833, 4/11/13

Mira Conklin

with amendment.

Good afternoon members of the Senate ~~Transportation Committee~~
Committee on Business and Transportation

My name is Mira Conklin and I am the Coordinator for Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, formerly the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement. We are a coalition of immigrants, people of faith and conscience, and over 30 diverse faith communities ~~all~~ working together to address the struggles of undocumented immigrants and create communities of radical welcome. All of our faith traditions call for justice and equality for all human beings.

And I am saddened by the overt racism I have heard in many of those speaking against the bill.

In addition to listening for how our faith leads us, we have been in conversation with coalition ^{US citizens and} members who are Oregon voters and have listened deeply to our undocumented members, friends and neighbors. In response, we ask that you support SB833, but with an amendment that removes the distinguishing mark and restores access to all other privileges that come with the current Oregon drivers license. We acknowledge the work that has gone into creating this bill and stand with our allies who share a common vision of access to drivers licenses for all. But this bill can be improved by providing the *same* drivers license to all drivers who meet DMV requirements.

We believe that all people have value and that we are part of the same human family. We all need to eat and to work and to provide for our families. We all want to contribute positively to our communities. ^{Restricting access to licenses or creating issues} A lower class of license creates a lower class of people, opening the door to racial profiling, perpetuating fear of local law enforcement, and facilitating the tearing apart of families and communities through detention and deportation. ^{until} Providing access to the same drivers license for *all* Oregon drivers honors the humanity of all and creates safer, more welcoming communities throughout our state. ~~We~~ ask that you act now to make this change and pass a bill that would benefit all people. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

It's the right thing to do.

Until our broken immigration ^{system} is fixed and there is a clear path for those who want to become legal permanent residents or citizens to do so,