

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am writing you so you can include my written testimony regarding SB 461. Thank you for bringing this to the forefront, I hope that your efforts become the change I ask for!

One year ago, I went to renew my Oregon Driver's License in Eugene. Upon receiving my license, I found that the photo taken, wasn't representative of how I look at all or an image I felt comfortable presenting when asked to show my identification. After the renewal process was complete, I left the DMV- driving away unhappy. I began to reflect and realized that I'm going to be saddled with this very bad photo of myself for the next 8 years! After giving this some thought, I decided that maybe I should ask for a retake. I spun my car around [safely] and drove immediately back to the DMV. I waited until my number was called to be seen by the intake assistant. I requested to have my photo retaken. After a bit of back room deliberation, I was informed that my request was something that could not be offered. Additionally, I was told that there were "new rules" which applied which prevented them from complying with such a request. I was surprised to hear about this, especially in this day and age of digital everything. I was completely prepared and willing to pay an additional fee for a retake photo.

You might imagine, I was more than a little frustrated. So, I decided to try to get to the bottom of this "new legislation" that applied to DMV photos.

After a little run around which didn't get me very far, I decided it might be helpful to contact Senator Prozanski.

Mr. Prozanski has been positive and responded by introducing SB 461. In part it would allow, with a FEE, a retake of a Driver's License at the request of a Licensee.

I am all for this option. Please pass SB 461. I know it is necessary to keep paper shuffling to a minimum, so perhaps there could be only a same day photo retake policy.

I would welcome such an option and it would make my day!

There are those of us in our community, myself included, who feel it is important to put our best foot forward in representing ourselves. Some of us may have been bullied as children and feel it is important to look presentable in a photo [yes, that's me]. Looking at my current Driver's License photo makes me uncomfortable. I pretty much have a shot taken that makes me look like a criminal! I have even taken steps to hide my Driver's License photo under sticky note paper as I store it in my wallet. I dread when I am asked to present my identification. I was born with a cleft lip and palate and have had many reconstructive surgeries- I admit to being sensitive to my personal appearance. I include this information simply to explain that this isn't simply about vanity as much as it is about having an option available. The option of being able to have a retake of a Driver's License photo is not a critical life or death situation, I realize this and the retake option may seem quite petty to some, but I'd like to add- A driver's License is something that we are required to have and to show as identification. I don't think it is abnormal wanting to carry a decent photo on our Oregon License or more importantly to have the option of a retake of a photo on an identification card if you are not comfortable with the one that was snapped by a potentially disgruntled DMV employee at an inopportune "posing" moment.

For reference, I was told at DMV that retakes are allowed IF only the following apply: You have a new hairstyle, your eyes are closed, or you have a significant weight gain or loss.

Go figure !

Thank you for your consideration in passing SB 461

Debbie Summers
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