



February 15, 2019

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 2614

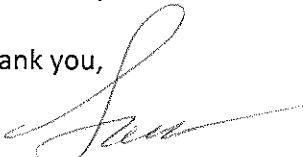
Dear Chair Williamson and committee members:

Community Action Partnership's board of directors supports HB 2614. Community Action agencies around Oregon work with individuals and families impacted by the loss of housing, income and other barriers to finding and maintain a safe and affordable place to call home. The loss of a license due to unpaid debt is an additional barrier that repeatedly comes up with the clients we serve.

Driver's license suspension should only be used in cases of public safety, not as a tool of debt collection. Debt will add to the barriers facing low-income and homeless Oregonians to obtain housing and jobs. Unexpected impacts on our clients may include:

- With the current affordable housing shortage, cars are often where people sleep and keep their belongings. This particularly impacts the less vulnerable and lower barrier clients more than the chronically homeless because they may be working and living in their cars.
- CAAs may have to use funds to pay off debts in order to allow the client to obtain a job or housing. This can be costly and use funds that could be used for other supportive services.
- Payment plans for low-no-income clients don't work. Even \$25-\$50/month is too much. Instead, they will push people into cycles of debt and poverty.
- In rural Oregon, license suspension causes further descent into poverty because there are no expansive alternatives in transportation.

Please consider these facts and the testimony you will hear from a representative of Oregon's community action network and vote to support HB 2614.

Thank you,


Barb Higinbotham, President
CAPO Board of Director
Executive Director – Community in Action
Malheur and Harney Counties


Janet Merrell
Executive Director
CAPO