



April 16, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Causa  
RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of Causa, I urge you to support HB 2015. Causa is Oregon's immigrant rights organization, serving Latino immigrant families in Oregon for 24 years.

HB 2015 would have a tremendous impact on the communities we serve. Access to a license to drive has been a primary need for immigrant Oregonians for over a decade. The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Excluding Oregonians from the ability to apply for a driver's license because of their citizenship status puts our neighbors at risk and makes it harder for them to care for themselves and build a better life for their families.

HB 2015 upholds Oregon values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. In Oregon we believe in welcoming others, including those who may seem different, and building those bridges of understanding. While we might disagree about how to fix our complex and broken immigration system, we can all agree that our immigrant friends and neighbors shouldn't be separated from their families over a traffic stop.

This bill would make our communities and roads safer. Allowing all Oregonians, regardless of citizenship status, to apply for a driver's license by passing a written safety exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone. Currently, 13 states, including California and Washington, have laws similar to HB 2015. Multiple university and government studies have shown that in states with policies like the one Oregon is proposing, traffic accidents and hit-and-run incidents have decreased by as much as 10%<sup>i</sup> to 30%<sup>ii</sup> and the number of insured driver rates have increased significantly, making roads safer and saving millions in out-of-pocket expenses for drivers who are not at fault.

For these reasons, we support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,  
Andrea Williams, Causa Executive Director

---

<sup>i</sup> "Empirical Studies Support Issuance of Driver's Licenses Without ...." <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/driver-license-research.pdf>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2019.

<sup>ii</sup> "The Impact of Allowing All Immigrants Access to Driver's Licenses." <https://www.coloradofiscal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/drivers-license-for-undocument-immigrants-cfi.pdf>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2019.