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April 16th, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Carmen Rubio of Latino Network  
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,

My name is Carmen Rubio and I'm the Executive Director at Latino Network. Latino Network currently provides services throughout Multnomah County, Washington County and East County. Many of our community members rely on families having safe access to roads with a proper driver's license. On behalf of our youth participants, their parents and the larger community as a whole we urge you to support HB 2015.

The ability to drive legally is a core day to day need for many Oregon families. Parents take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Requiring all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to pass a written and driver's test, provide proof of identity and insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone.

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 creating a welcoming community. Being unable to access a license to drive puts many of our fellow community members without legal status in a very vulnerable position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and make it nearly impossible to provide for their family. As you can see both options present dire consequences. Oregonians shouldn't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply for living their lives - taking their kids to school, going to work, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

At Latino Network we serve thousands of Latinx students and families each year. Our core value is to positively transform the lives of Latinx youth, families and communities, something we don't take lightly. We as Oregonians must strongly reaffirm our commitment to providing a safe community for everyone and pass HB2015. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carmen Rubio  
Latino Network