

4/15/19

TO: The Joint Committee on Transportation, State of Oregon;
Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer;
Co-Chair Rep. Caddy McKnown; and
Members of the Joint Committees on Transportation

RE: House Bill 2015 Equal Access to Roads Act

FROM: Social Justice Coalition, Central Lutheran Church

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation:

The Social Justice Coalition of our faith community, Portland's Central Lutheran Church, urges you to vote YES on HB 2015, which would give equal access to driving to all Oregonians. Equality is a core Oregon value, and is embedded in all our faith traditions. The Hebrew Testament—the basis for both Christian and Jewish ethics, tells us in 59 places to care for the alien, the stranger in our midst. Both of our faiths hold that we should treat others as we want to be treated-- that we must care for the needs of our neighbors.

The underlying core value of both our faith commitment, and our Oregon society, is equality. Having one set of rules for some human beings in our midst, and a different set for others, is unfair, as well as mean-spirited. Making some Oregonians have to choose between driving to work without a license, (thus risking arrest and deportation), or not being able to support their family -- is not the Oregon way. These Oregonians are the ones who put our roofs on, pick our produce, build our houses, join our churches. They are not the gangs; they are not workers who take jobs away from others in our state. In Oregon now, we actually need *more* workers.

If you, as a legislator, cannot accept the above reasons for supporting HB 2015, please be aware that many Oregonians *besides* immigrants do not have access to the documents needed to get the enhanced federal REAL-ID card -- come the time next year when the regulation takes effect in Oregon. Many older Oregon citizens cannot find proof of where they were born. Low income people, the homeless, and survivors of domestic violence also are frequently unable to show the citizenship proofs required by the "Real ID."

The Social Justice Coalition of Central Lutheran Church wholeheartedly supports HB 2015. We urge you to support this important legislation as well.

Thank you,

Members of the Social Justice Coalition, Central Lutheran Church
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