



Urban League
of Portland

April 15, 2019

Co-Chairs Beyer, McKeown and Members of the Committee:

The Urban League of Portland asks for your support for House Bill 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act. The ability to drive legally is an everyday necessity for most Oregon families, enabling us to bring kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need.

Founded in 1945 as an affiliate of the National Urban League, the Urban League of Portland is a nonprofit community-based organization headquartered in North Portland. Our mission is to empower African Americans and other Oregonians to achieve equality in education, employment, and economic security.

A driver's license is integral to economic security, unlocking employment, housing, and civic opportunities. Legal identification like a driver's license provides law enforcement with what they need to quickly and easily verify someone's identity, and provides members of the public with the peace of mind to know that coming forward after witnessing or being the victim of the crime will not have unintended consequences for them. Oregon roads are safer when all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, are registered to drive and obliged to comply with other safety precautions like proof of insurance. Officers can dedicate more time and resources to other safety priorities when their time is not depleted by verifying identities. Access to identification is key to additional economic opportunities like stable housing and gainful employment, for which a driver's license is often required to apply.

The Equal Access to Roads Act ensures that personal information is secure and prohibits discrimination and profiling of Oregonians who have a standard license, rather than a REAL ID-enhanced license. This bill provides protections against additional targeting and injustice. Oregonians who do not want, cannot afford, or do not have access to the documents required for an "enhanced" license can keep or apply for a standard license.

We have an opportunity to make sure that every Oregonian can go about daily life and provide for themselves and their families safely and legally. Please vote yes on HB 2015.

Respectfully,
Hannah Holloway,
Urban League of Portland