

Date: April 15, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

**Re: Support for HB 2015**

Sen. Beyer, Rep. McKeowin, Members of the Committee:

My name is Isaac Moreno and I am a session committee assistant within the Legislative Revenue Office. The contents of this document are mine and mine alone, and in no way reflect the thoughts or beliefs held by my colleagues.

According to the National Conference on State Legislatures (NCSL), the following states already issue licenses to unauthorized immigrants: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Vermont and Washington. <sup>[1]</sup> For those who argue that HB 2015 may be a threat to Oregon's safety and economic security, I would reiterate that the states listed above require specific documentation from said patrons such as a foreign passport, a foreign birth certificate, and/or evidence of current residency within the state. <sup>[1]</sup>

In addition, according to the American Immigration Council as of 2015 there were approximately over 395,000 foreign born immigrants in Oregon. <sup>[2]</sup> With more than a third of Oregon's farmers, fishers and foresters being immigrants it would be in our best economic interest to ensure they are able to make it to and from work in a safe and legal manner, for these individuals serve an integral role within our ever-growing communities.

Moreover, granting driver's licenses to all Oregon residents will require individuals to take and pass the written and driven exams as well as properly register their vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles. By taking said actions, we can be more confident that our neighbors will know the rules of the road. This can incentivize the obtainment of auto insurance, thus reducing the likelihood of hit-and-run accidents, and potentially lower insurance rates for all, <sup>[3]</sup> making the streets of Oregon a safer place to drive.

Lastly, note that in June of 2011 there was a study conducted by Mary C. King titled "Assessments of the Socioeconomic Impacts of SB 1080 on Immigrant groups" <sup>[4]</sup> Here, King and her team end noting that such matters are quite difficult to quantify. Although this may be true, when a matter arises time and time again, there comes a moment when we as community must act in the direction we deem most suitable for the people of today as well as the families of tomorrow. Thank you.

Best,

- Isaac Moreno

## Works Cited

- [1] <http://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/states-offering-driver-s-licenses-to-immigrants.aspx>
- [2] <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-oregon>
- [3] <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/articles-clinic/why-states-should-provide-access-drivers-licenses-undocumented-immigrants>
- [4] <https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/ResearchDocuments/SB1080.pdf>