

April 15, 2019

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

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

My name is Jep King, a Portland, OR resident. I am writing to urge you to support HB 2015 which will strike out the proof of legal presence requirement for getting a standard driver's license.

Regardless of who we are or where we are from, we have to do basic things like make a living or go to school. When public transportation is not accessible, we need to drive. In 2008, Oregon added a proof of legal presence requirement for getting a driver's license, but what does that have to do with our driving skills? All Oregonians who can prove that they are competent to drive should be able to get a license.

In 2020, some people will have two options to obtain "driving privilege" – one is the standard license and the other an enhanced Real-ID license. However, many Oregonians who do not have access to documents and need to get an enhanced driver's license will be left with no transportation. This includes immigrants without legal status, low-income individuals, houseless people, and survivors of domestic violence. So all Oregonians should be able to obtain at least a standard driver's license for equal access to our roads. And given that Oregon is a sanctuary state, immigrants should be able to drive their kids to school or to doctor's appointments and drive to work without fear of being deported over a traffic stop.

I believe in fairness and would like all Oregonians to have equal access to our roads. I hope that you agree and support HB 2015.

Sincerely,
Jep King, Portland, OR