



NORTHWEST HEALTH
FOUNDATION

April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Northwest Health Foundation

RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Northwest Health Foundation is a foundation based in Portland, Oregon. We fund and partner with community-led nonprofit organizations across Oregon and Southwest Washington, and we urge you to support HB 2015.

All Oregonians need to get their children to school, go to work, visit doctors' and dentists' offices, and pick up groceries from the store. Some of us are fortunate enough to live in cities and towns with reliable public transportation or sidewalks. Others, especially those in rural areas, are not. For them, cars are the only practical and safe option.

The Equal Access to Roads Act would allow every Oregonian, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, the right to test for a driver's license. Being unable to access a license puts many immigrants without legal status in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family. This reality does not reflect Oregon values. In Oregon, we believe in welcoming others and building bridges of understanding. We believe in opportunity for all our communities.

Driver's licenses are a health issue. When families can't get to school, work, a doctor's office, the store, or community gathering places, their physical and mental health suffer. Our state becomes sicker – not just for immigrants, for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time. Again, I encourage this committee to pass the Equal Access to Roads Act. By supporting HB 2015, you'll improve health for everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,

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President, Northwest Health Foundation

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