

Testimony HB2015

April 17, 2018

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

My name is Kristina Burbank. I serve the people of St James Santiago Episcopal Church and Oceana Family Literacy Center in Lincoln City, Oregon. We are Latino and Anglo. We are immigrants from many times and places.

As citizens of a community built along coastal Highway 101, our Driver's Licenses are often our lifelines: to employment, to school, to medical appointments, to relationships. As one community, we rise and fall together.

Some of us know first hand what it's like to live without Driver's Licenses. But imagine if each and every one of us lost our licenses for just one week. Park the cars. Hitch up the horses. Lace-up the hiking boots.

Imagine the breakdown of our entire community. No workers. No restaurants. No hotels. No vacation industry. No Congressional Hearings. Imagine the breakdown of families and friends.

For we rely on one another:

A young family man would tell you that over the years his family has been faithfully mentored and taught English by an older Anglo woman. Now his family is stable. Now the woman, living alone, is elderly and frail, but also beloved and adopted by the Latino community. They shop for her, they take her to medical appointments. They keep her company. Those who originally received help are now helping. Their Driver's Licenses have truly become her lifeline.

My friend Esperanza would tell you: We all want to be responsible citizens. We want to be licensed drivers. We want to be insured drivers. We want to drive—to work, to school, to appointments, to use Oregon's roads with freedom. And fairness.

I think we can agree with her that **all** Oregonians would be well served knowing that **all** drivers on our roads had passed their driver's tests and had insurance.

We rely on one another. That which weakens and harms one member of the community, weakens and harms the whole. Together we fall. Together we can rise again.

For the sake of our entire community—for the sake of the entire state of Oregon—I urge you to support HB2015. If we are to grow into the hope of living together as one whole, healthy community—if we are to journey together toward a working unity—we all need Equal Access to Roads. Each and every one of us.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.