



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

Testimony in support of HB2015 Joint Transportation Committee April 15, 2019

Co-chairs Beyer and McKeown, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Noble, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), **I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB2015 which would allow drivers licenses for all Oregonians.**

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention and Education.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

The ability to drive legally is foundational to contribution of our communities, whether we're driving our kids to school, commuting to work, transporting goods and services, or participating in every-day life.

Many Oregonians do not have access to documents needed to get an enhanced driver license. This includes the elderly, immigrants without legal status, low-income individuals, people who are houseless, and survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Perpetrators often target those who are vulnerable, accessible, and perceived to be lacking in credibility. They often use a victim's lack of immigration status as a threat and tool of further abuse. The inability to legally drive is a great barrier to seeking help and safety from abuse, particularly in rural and frontier regions of our state. HB2015 will help vulnerable survivors increase their public safety by better enabling them to access critical resources and support services.

The ability to apply for a license to drive gives all Oregonians, including those without legal status, the opportunity to follow the law, get to work and school safely, and provide for their families and communities.

Thank you for your hard work on this issue and for your work on behalf of our great state. I urge your support of HB2015.

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