



April 10, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Unidos Bridging Community  
RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

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

I am writing on behalf of Unidos Bridging Community, a non-profit organization based in McMinnville that serves all of Yamhill County and I urge you to support HB 2015.

HB 2015 would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status by returning the regular Class-C Oregon Driver License to a pre-2008 set of application requirements. The proposed bill allow all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provides proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver license, regardless of citizenship status.

In rural Yamhill County, having a valid driver's license is essential to our everyday lives. Our neighbors shouldn't have to worry that driving their vehicle to meet their household's basic needs could result in having their families separated through a deportation or a parent being arrested for not being able to identify themselves.

In our work as advocates for the Latino immigrant community in Yamhill County, I have learned of parents dropping off their children at a Head Start school and being pulled over for driving without a license. As a result, the family chooses to not continue sending their child to preschool. I've met college students who leave class and their education responsibilities every day to drop off and pick up their parent at a worksite that is an hour away. I have learned of seniors needing medical care that have withheld attending their doctor appointments for fear that their adult children were to get arrested and then deported for driving without a license. I have learned of residents being fearful of reporting domestic violence or a theft in their home because they do not want law enforcement to know that they are not currently eligible to obtain an ID card or drivers license because they do not meet the documentation requirements. The lack of access to state issued documentation is preventing all Oregonians from living full, healthy, and safe lives in our communities.

It should be a public safety priority to ensure that all who are on our roads have equal access to pass a written safety exam and driver's test so that they know the rules of the road and if a vehicle accident occurs, the person responsible for the accident does not leave the scene for fear of being identified as uninsured or driving without a license. In states where drivers licenses are available to all, studies show that the rate of insured drivers has increased and the rate of hit-and-run incidents has declined significantly. This bill is common sense legislation and it will benefit all of the state; not just those 80,000-100,000 who are currently ineligible to obtain a driver's license.

Unidos supports HB 2015 and we encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Miriam Vargas Corona  
Executive Director

309 NE Third St. Suite 1 • McMinnville • OR • 97128

[www.unidosyamhillcounty.org](http://www.unidosyamhillcounty.org) • [www.facebook.com/UnidosBridgingCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/UnidosBridgingCommunity) • [info@unidosyamhillcounty.org](mailto:info@unidosyamhillcounty.org)