



April 11, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Nancy Haque, Executive Director of Basic Rights Oregon
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,

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, I respectfully request your support for HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act, which would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver's license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Oregonians experience equality with a focus on transgender and racial justice. We're writing in support of HB 2015 because this bill is a vital step forward to ensuring members of our communities don't have to worry about choosing between driving without a license, thus risking arrest and deportation, and not driving, which renders them unable to provide for their families.

This choice is an impossible one to make and one that no one should face. Sadly, it's a growing, and very real, fear because, since 2016, deportations due to traffic violations have increased by 138%.¹ The ability to drive legally and without fear or threat of deportation is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need.

Oregon will have proven models to work from for this bill, as 13 states, including California and Washington, issue licenses to drive to all drivers who meet the legal, safety, insurance, identification, and residency requirements to obtain a license, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

With this bill, we have a chance to live our values. We can ensure that Oregonians won't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply because they are taking their kids to school, going to work, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

This is why Basic Rights Oregon supports HB 2015 and encourages this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nancy Haque
Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon

¹ "Deportations of traffic offenders skyrocketed under Trump, study says."
<https://www.ajc.com/news/national/deportations-traffic-offenders-skyrocketed-under-trump-study-says/dYyWHWitrRge5Lwb802JaL/>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2019.