

Chairman Senator Beyer, Co-Chair Representative McKeown and Joint Transportation Committee Members, my name is Rick Coufal and I am submitting this Testimony against House Bill 2015. As a retired Law Enforcement Officer in Oregon, I have seen far too often the effects of drivers with little or no motor vehicle insurance on the roads in Oregon. It is far too easy to get a quote for Motor Vehicle Insurance to show to DMV and then cancel or fail to follow through with getting insurance. So, at the time of an accident or traffic stop the driver has no insurance or just limited liability. I was recently rear-ended at a traffic light, by just such an individual, who was not a resident of Oregon and had far too little insurance. As this crash occurred while I was stopped, and she was traveling at 35-40 mph. I received a moderate concussion, back and neck trauma, resulting in back surgery. What I found was her so called motor vehicle insurance had minimal coverage and fortunately my policy was robust enough to cover my vehicle damage and MOST but not all my medical expenses.

I am sure I am not alone, as I have taken numerous reports and written countless citations to far too many undocumented drivers in Oregon. In 2014 Ballot Measure 88 was soundly defeated by over 66 % of Legal Oregon Voters, voting NO to allowing illegal immigrants access to Oregon Drivers Licenses. With access to Oregon Drivers Licenses you also can get registered to vote in Oregon.

The most important document a Mexican drug cartel operative might possess is a valid state driver card or license. It would enable them to drive up and down I-5 and throughout Oregon and sell their drugs. If a Law Enforcement Officer happened to pull them over for a traffic violation, the drug dealer or transporter could produce their Oregon driver license and it would be less likely the Law Enforcement Officer would have probable cause to search their vehicle.

Currently Oregon citizens must produce proof of their citizenship along with other documents to get an Oregon Driver's License. This proof of citizenship and Voting privilege are unique and reserved only for Oregon Citizens.

Oregon has a good driver license law passed in 2008 with overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of the legislature. It should not be weakened. Why abandon the security this law provides in an increasingly dangerous world? Please do not change this law and do not pass HB 2015.