

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Susan Stoltenberg, YWCA of Greater Portland
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 the Executive Director of the YWCA of Greater Portland (we are based in Portland, but have a state-wide focus), 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:

- Allows 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.
- Provides protection to ensure a person's information is secured and not shared with the federal government.
- Provides anti-discrimination language to ensure a person isn't targeted for having a Class C license.
- Will have an implementation timeline beginning on January 1, 2021 to ensure success.

The YWCA's core mission is to empower women and eliminate racism, which we pursue through programs that support and uplift people in a wide range of positions in our society—survivors of domestic violence, seniors, mothers involved in the justice system, their families and more. Making driver's licenses possible to come by for some of Oregon's most vulnerable, underserved populations directly supports our ability to enact our goals. In addition:

- The ability to drive legally 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.
- HB 2015 upholds Oregon values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. In Oregon, we believe in welcoming others, including those who may seem different, and building those bridges of understanding.
- Oregonians shouldn'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.
- In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, it's not practical or safe for people to walk for miles on country roads just to get to and from work or take care of their families.

This is why I support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director
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eliminating racism
empowering women
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