

April 15, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Wes Hilmeyer

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,

My name is Wes Hilmeyer. I live in Portland and I urge you to support HB 2015.

Access to vital services is crucial for all members of our community regardless of citizenship or immigration status. As our society is currently very vehicle-oriented, the legal license to drive a car is fundamentally linked with the ability to reach public services as well as places of employment, schools, etc. Public transit and non-motor vehicles are simply not viable options in many circumstances, especially in rural parts of Oregon.

Without the ability to attain a license, immigrants and other residents of Oregon are forced to choose between going without those services and driving illegally. If they take the second option, this affects many people beyond the driver. Not only do they risk arrest and jail time (destroying family bonds and disrupting the economy) they also are less likely to be trained in safe driving practices. They also are likely to go uninsured.

House Bill 2015 would limit these risks and provide a safe, welcoming path into our community for immigrants. This is why I support the bill and encourage the committee to pass it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wes Hilmeyer

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