



April 16, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)
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,

We are the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA), one of four regional health equity coalitions in the state, working in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties. We are writing in support of HB 2015.

Being unable to access a license to drive puts many immigrants without legal status in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family, unable to access necessary health care services, and unable to drive their kids to school.

HB 2015, The Equal Access to Roads Act gives the opportunity for communities to drive legally without risking their safety and the livelihood of their families, to further support and care for their families. We know that community members are profiled based on race and ethnicity and that and that deportations from traffic infractions have increased 168% since 2016.

We believe in health equity, and we believe that everyone should have the ability to have the autonomy to make decisions about their lives. Drivers licenses are a critical part of the access and ability to live and thrive. Access to drivers licenses should not be limited by race, nationality, or citizenship.

We encourage this committee to pass HB 2015, for the health and safety of all Oregon families. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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