



To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
Re: HB 2015

April 17, 2019

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, Co-Vice Chair Boquist, Co-Vice Chair Noble, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2015. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color. We are a coalition of 19 culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural, collective action for racial equity.

A driver's license makes it possible to get to work, take a child to school, complete a degree, and care for a family member. When we ensure that everyone who can safely drive is able to access a license, we create fairer, more inclusive communities where families can be successful. The current eligibility restrictions for driver's licenses can make it impossible to fulfill these responsibilities, especially in rural parts of our state. We must take action to help Oregonians support their families and focus on public safety, rather than a system of exclusion.

Oregonians who are working to take care of their families should not have to live in fear of deportation or risk being torn away from their loved ones. This terrible choice between driving without a license and risking arrest or deportation or no longer being able to provide for their families is not one anyone should be forced to make. This legislation will also create safer communities because HB 2015 would require all drivers, regardless of their residency status, to pass a written safety exam and driver's test, and to provide proof of identity and insurance.

We respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB 2015 for safer communities and to support the basic wellbeing of Oregon's families.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee  
Advocacy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color

