

4/16/19

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Ruth Dallas RN  
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 Ruth Dallas, I live in Gaston Oregon. I write to ask you to support HB 2015. This bill as you know will allow immigrants without legal status and others who lack sufficient documentation and do not have passports to drive legally in the state of Oregon.

As it stands now, people living and working here without legal status do not have a legal means to drive. Who are these people? They are the people all around us who do the jobs most Oregonians refuse to do. They are the people who plant and harvest our crops, tend our dairy cows, can our fish, care for our elderly and our children. They cook the meals we eat out, clean our offices and hotel rooms. Many people don't even think about how much these workers benefit all of us. In spring when we go buy our potted plants they never think who planted those plants. When we eat out at the burger joint or pizzeria or eat at the fancy high end place in Portland they never notice who is back in the kitchen cooking. Visiting an elderly person in the nursing home no one pays attention to who is caring for that loved one but so often it is an immigrant and often one without a legal right to a license.

These people live in a perilous situation where they must decide every day how they will get to work the grocery store or even visit a doctor or hospital. If they live in a rural area as I do, not having a license makes life almost impossible.

As a community health Nurse I often talked to people who could not come in for needed appointments as their only transportation was when a friend or relative could drive them. They could not pick up important prescriptions without the help of someone else so they often went without.

As Oregonians we need to decide who we are as a people. Are we so callous that we benefit from the hard work of these people and yet feel fine about placing them in a miserable position where they can't even go to a child's sporting event or school performance without risking deportation?

I ask you to do the right thing and stand up for those among us who deserve our respect as human beings. To stop the abuse that is written into our Oregon laws.

Thank you,

Ruth Dallas RN