

April 16, 2018

Dear Co-Chair Senator Beyer, Co-Chair Representative McKeown, Vice-Chair Senator Boquist and Vice-Chair Representative Noble,

I am writing in support of HB 2015 to assure that all Oregonians who are able to drive have the opportunity to apply for and obtain a driver's license. As a physician, I worked at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, a community health center which serves many immigrants, including migrant farmworkers. I heard from them how important it is to be able to drive, especially to work, to doctor's appointments, and to school. Often their workplaces--nurseries, berry farms, orchards-- were only accessible by car. Although public transportation by bus or light rail is available in the Portland metro area, there are few other cities and towns in Oregon that have public transportation. Driving is the only real option in rural Oregon.

As an Oregonian who drives, I know that our roads and highways are much safer when all of those driving know the rules of the road and how to be a safe driver. Allowing all drivers in Oregon to apply for a license and pass a driving test is just common sense.

Please support and pass HB 2015 to make Oregon a safer and more equitable place.

Sincerely,

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