

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

Real Opportunity for Every Oregonian

April 16, 2019

Co-Chairs Beyer, McKeown, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Fair Shot For All Coalition in support of HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act.

Fair Shot for All is a united movement of more than 30 racial justice organizations, community groups, and labor unions fighting for together for racial, gender and economic justice. Our priorities tackle critical barriers to safety, health and security and continue to our fight to secure a fair shot for every Oregonian. We stand together to fight for a fair shot at a secure future for women, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families.

Ensuring all Oregonians, including immigrant Oregonians without legal status, can access a license to drive, means our neighbors will be able to safely live, and work, and take care of their families.

In most parts of Oregon, especially rural Oregon, driving is an essential part of everyday life. In addition, many domestic violence survivors, the elderly, houseless individuals, victims of natural disasters, and low-income Oregonians do not have access to the documents necessary to legally identify themselves under the strict REAL ID requirements. Ensuring all Oregonians can access a license to drive and identify themselves is important for the safety and security of our communities.

The Equal Access to Roads Act, HB 2015, allows all Oregon residents who meet the requirements to drive, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to keep or apply for a standard driver's license with proof of insurance, identity and residency. Oregonians who do not want, cannot afford, or do not have access to the documents required for an "enhanced" license can keep or apply for a standard license.

This bill also provides protections against targeting and injustice. The Equal Access to Roads Act ensures a person's information is secured and prohibit discrimination and profiling of Oregonians who have a standard license, rather than a REAL ID-enhanced license.

Currently, 13 states have similar laws on the books. Many of these states are also Real ID compliant and provide proven models for Oregon to build on. We have an opportunity to make sure all Oregonians can go about daily life and provide for themselves and their families safely and legally. We urge your yes vote on HB 2015.