



April 15, 2019

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

I am writing on behalf of Unite Oregon in support of HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act.

Led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. Unite Oregon represents over 13,000 supporters and members across Oregon.

Immigrants living in Oregon are part of our families, communities, workplaces, and places of worship. Right now, if an immigrant without legal status is pulled over and is driving without a license, they can be arrested and put on a pathway to deportation—even if they have no other criminal record and have lived here for years. The ability to apply for a license to drive gives all Oregonians, the opportunity to follow the law, get to work and school safely, and provide for their families and communities.

Currently being unable to produce a driver's license when pulled over is increasingly leading immigrants to be flagged as "criminals" who are considered a "priority" for deportation. Here in Oregon, we can't fix the broken immigration system that leaves many of us in legal limbo, but we can make sure in the meantime that those living here are driving safely and legally and ensure that we won't be separated from our families and sent to a country we don't know over a traffic stop.

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.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 2015.

Sincerely,

Kayse Jama  
Executive Director  
Unite Oregon