



Date: 04/16/2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Kelli Horvath, Government Relations, Oregon Education Association

RE: OEA Support for HB 2015

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

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 Oregon students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty and staff from across the state.

OEA encourages you to support HB 2015, which would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver's license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status. OEA supports this policy because the tens of thousands of Oregonians who could benefit from expanded access to driver's licenses include students, their families, and educators.

Whether driving children to school or going to work to provide for one's family, Oregon residents need to be able to drive on our roads legally. By requiring all drivers in Oregon to pass written and driving safety tests and to provide proof of identity and insurance, HB 2015 would make Oregon roads safer. Importantly, it would also enhance the level of safety Oregon's students feel every day when they walk into the classroom; the bill upholds Oregon's basic values of fairness and welcoming communities.

In today's political climate, too many students and their families already live in fear of being deported or having their families be torn apart in the event of a deportation. This fear is only exacerbated by the fact that Oregon currently lacks a legal option for people to drive their kids to school, go to work, or take care of loved ones or fellow community members.

HB 2015 offers a significant opportunity to make students feel safer, and to make Oregonians across the state safer by ensuring that members of our communities who need to drive to work or school can do so legally. OEA supports HB 2015 and encourages members of the committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

Kelli Horvath

Government Relations

Oregon Education Association