

Oregon Student Association



April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director, Oregon Student Association

RE: OSA Support for HB 3310

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Perla Alvarez and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association represents over 130,000 university and community college students statewide and work towards an affordable and accessible higher education for all Oregonians. The Oregon Student Association supports HB 2015, which would expand eligibility for a standard Class C driver license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status.

Access to a driver's license means socioeconomic mobility for many families in Oregon. Students who are low income choose to attend a Community College or a more affordable institution, however some of these institutions are also in rural areas where there is no reliable public transportation. A student that I have worked with currently attends Western Oregon University and he drives without a license to school. He wants to be able to obtain a degree in business, but he has no other option. He needs to get to school to be able to attend classes. This process is stressful because he doesn't know when he will get pulled over. Students should be worried about their upcoming tests and essays, not about when they, or their parents will get pulled over for not having access to a drivers license.

HB 2015 would allow access to opportunity but also it means that it would make our roads safer. Multiple university and government studies have shown that in states with policies like the one Oregon is proposing, traffic accidents and hit-and-run incidents have decreased by as much as 10% to 30% and the number of insured driver rates have increased significantly, making roads safer and saving millions in out-of-pocket expenses for drivers who are not at fault.

This is why OSA supports HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Perla Alvarez
Legislative Director
Oregon Student Association

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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