



Wednesday, April 16th, 2019

Co-chairs Beyer and McKeown, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Noble, and members of the committee:

Thank you for your time and willingness to consider our testimony. **The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) strongly supports House Bill 2015**, which would ensure that Oregon driver licenses are available to all Oregonians regardless of citizenship status.

Under current state law, undocumented Oregonians face incredible barriers and risks without access to a legal way to drive. These risks and barriers have a disproportionate impact on undocumented survivors of abuse, particularly as they attempt to flee an abusive situation and reestablish their safety and self-determination. These restrictions are particularly onerous for victims located in rural and frontier areas, where public transit options are limited and an abuser's tactics compound with geographic distance to isolate the victim further.

Undocumented victims of violence will often have their lack of immigration status used against them, as people causing harm will often threaten deportation and immigration sanctions as a means of wielding power and keeping their victims under their control.

Having the ability to apply for a drivers' license gives all Oregonians, including those without immigration status, the opportunity to follow the law, get to work and school safely, and provide for their families and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the Legislature prioritizing efforts to support vulnerable communities throughout Oregon through considering this bill and other actions this legislative session.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vanessa Timmons".

Vanessa Timmons
Executive Director, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Founded in 1978, The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) is a statewide nonprofit organization that is comprised of 51 member programs that provide advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the state.

To learn more about the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, visit:
<https://www.ocadsv.org>.