

April 16, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Yadira Baltier Moreno

RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access To Roads Act

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

My name is Yadira Baltier-Moreno and I live in North Portland in New Columbia. I am the oldest of three siblings and first generation to graduate high school. I am still pursuing higher education while juggling work and assisting my family with support through their language barrier.

I am writing this letter to urge you to support House Bill 2015. Multiple states across the nation have already given driver licenses to immigrants. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 12 states including Washington, DC have given driving privileges to unauthorized immigrants (Mendoza, 2016). We must join alongside with Washington, California, Utah and other states to do the same.

Our society is very vehicle oriented and legal licenses should be offered to anyone regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Driving a vehicle is vital because it is required to have access to public services like commuting to work, school, family related business, etc. Also, public transportation and non-motor vehicles are not always the correct commute for those who live in rural parts of Oregon.

Without having access to driver's license immigrants and other residents of Oregon are forced to decide whether to live without public services or drive illegally.

We all know that the result of driving illegally creates a huge negative impact on families and communities. The result of this is also placing families at risk for arrest, deportation and jail time. Families are already being separated at the border. Family's bonds should not be broken because of deportation and arrest. Young children should not have to go through traumatic experiences nor give the oldest citizen in the family the burden to take care of their own family.

Similar situations like this, Diane Guerrero family was split while she was in school. She was only fourteen years old and the support system of her family was taken. Guerrero stayed in the U.S. to continue her education and became a successful actor. There are over 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. many of those have citizen children. They all should have the right to obtain a Driver's License just like their coworkers, neighbors and friends do.

Please legislators and members of the Transportation Committee, I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2015.

Thank you for your time,

Yadira Baltier-Moreno