

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: [Name of Individual/Organization Submitting]
RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

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

My name Elvis Serrato, I live in Salem OR, and I urge you to support HB 2015.

Before 2008 anyone could get their drivers license with the standard requirements. I was able to obtain mine. When my license expired I was unable to obtain my physical Drivers License ID due to me being without legal status. Not being able to present the required documents began to really affect me mentally. Knowing that if I got pulled over for whatever reason and getting a citation could lead me to be flagged for deportation. My paranoia and my fear began to grow. At this point, I had a child on the way, What was I to do? It became very stressful to the point where my wife and I couldn't stay out at family gatherings late, I didn't want to be out late. I began to limit my self drastically to the point where it was affecting my marriage and standard of living. My wife and I fought constantly because she did not understand that I didn't want to drive because of the extreme fear I had of being detained. When an opportunity arose to move to Las Vegas for a job, I quickly researched the license requirements and escaped there for a better opportunity and a drivers license. We had those fights many times. And that negatively affected our marriage - due to irreconcilable differences we are no longer married.

I was living in Las Vegas when President Obama Introduced DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). This was a life saver. I was able to now move back to Oregon. I was about 26 years old and was again able to obtain my license here in Oregon. Having my drivers license was crucial. I started my own company where we have delivered millions of dollars worth in merchandise: Appliances, Furniture, Building Materials, Home Goods, Toys for Young and Old, You name it, we've delivered it. I truly believe that we have brought happiness and joy to countless people here in Oregon, of every color and ethnicity that depend on us to deliver their items safely and securely. Without my Drivers license, this would not have been possible.

Just recently, we took a break from that industry and I am personally helping my mother promote and expand her Taxi Business. I have been behind the wheel for a few weeks now. We operate in Woodburn OR, a city that is known for its Hispanic undocumented community where, 99% of the customers are Hispanics, Mexican, and of Latin American descent. I thought my life was hard but after interacting and conversing with some of our customers, I have been

reminded of the simple fact of needing a Drivers License for everyday life. My heart goes out to these young and old men and women that get in our cabs, who need to take their kids to school, clinic appointments, trips to the grocery store. Just the other day, a young man came into my cab, I picked him up to go pick up some food at a local food truck, he came back with 2 bags of food and a bag of drinks for all his family. This man lives with 12 others crammed into a room. These people have to wake up in the early hours, many hours before the work even starts to be able to carpool with a family member who does have a Drivers license and drive hours away to a construction site. These are men and women who work at nurseries, build homes and building, and pick the fruits and vegetables that we enjoy. The hard laborious work that most people don't want to do. I'm not trying to make you feel sorry for us. We are too proud. We are hard workers. We love to work, but we ask to give equal access to the roads that we have helped build. At least grant us a way to obtain licenses so go to work, run errands, and take our families without fear of getting pulled over by the police and potentially separated from our families.

Right now in the taxi business, we sell a man a fish, but I would rather that man fish for himself and provide for his family.

This is why I support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elvis Serrato