



04/16/2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Sandra Amolo
Interim Executive Director
Voz Workers' Rights Education Project
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,

Voz Workers' Rights Education Project is a worker-led organization that empowers diverse day laborers and immigrants to improve their working conditions and protect civil rights through leadership development, organizing, education and economic opportunity. We are based in Portland, Oregon, and we urge you to support HB 2015.

Between 80,000-100,000 Oregon residents could benefit from driver license expansion through HB 2015. The most impacted communities include Oregon's undocumented population, seniors, homeless/houseless folks, domestic violence victims, and other Oregonians who have difficulty accessing their birth certificate and other paperwork necessary to prove their citizenship status.

Portland residents and Oregonians rely on day laborers to provide critical services including home maintenance, landscaping, and general labor. In the busiest months of the year, about 40 day laborers go out to work on these projects each day. For many of the workers we serve, the ability to drive legally is a core everyday need. Being unable to access a license to drive forces a day laborer to choose between being unable to drive to provide for their family, or risk arrest by driving without a license.

Currently, 13 states, including California and Washington, issue licenses to drive to all drivers who meet the legal, safety, insurance, identification, and residency requirements to obtain a license, regardless of immigration or citizenship status. Oregon has proven models to work from. Requiring all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone.

This is why we support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember the impact this bill will have on the day laborers that provide critical services to our communities when you vote. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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