

Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Jocksana and I am a happily married mother of two children, I go to school and work full time and am a volunteer at the Women's Advocacy center at SOU where I have a GPA of 3.9 as a Psychology major. I am also undocumented. I am 35 years old and I have never driven a car. My mother brought me to the United States from Mexico when I was a child. As I was growing up, I watched as all of my friends learned how to drive and got licenses as a "Right of passage" of growing up in the United States. When anyone noticed that I was not learning to drive or excited to get a driver's license I would say things like, "Oh I don't want to drive", or "I am scared of driving", to avoid the shame of admitting that I was undocumented and could not get a license.

I take the bus, or carpool, or ride my bike and have surrendered to a life without driving however, I would like to see young people who do not have documentation have a better option. I would like to see less shame and fear around the simple act of learning how to drive.

I talk to students often on campus who are undocumented and unable to obtain a license and it is just one of the many obstacles they are constantly overcoming. For example, I am not eligible for any financial aid or student programs like TRIO. Even though I have the grades to be admitted, I am unable to participate in the Honors College or McNair program because I am not a US citizen. It seems unnecessary to increase the many obstacles we face as Dreamers to continue to prevent us from learning how to drive and participating more fully in the society we are a part of. Please support this bill HB 2015, it will provide safer roads as well as greater opportunities to those of us who are an important part of society.