

April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Judy Buffo

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 is Judy Buffo, I live in Portland, and I urge you to support HB 2015.

On Labor Day in 1991 my husband and I dropped our daughter off at Whitman College in Walla Walla Washington for her senior year. On the way back to Portland, a driver (intoxicated) hit our car head on. My husband was killed immediately, and I waited for the jaws of life to lift me out of the car. I was hospitalized for 4+ days.

The man who hit us was working on a green card. He did have a driver's license. Strangely, I felt better that at least some effort had been made to see that drivers had to take a test to ensure they knew how to drive safely. I don't think I could ever get in a car again if I thought it was okay for people to be on the road without a safety exam.

This is why I support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. I hope you keep my story in mind. I feel sure that without the safeguard of driver's license test, there would be many more stories like mine. The Driver's license is not a test for citizenship, it is a test about safety for all of us.

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