

From: [Julia](#)
To: [JCT Exhibits](#)
Subject: House Bill 2015
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Testimony on HB 2015
Joint Committee on Transportation
April 17, 2019
Julia Gies, member
Oregon Nurses Association

Co-Chairs Sen Beyer and Rep Caddy McKeown
Members of the Committee

My name is Julia Gies. I am a retired nurse and am offering comments today in support of HB 2015, which would license all drivers in Oregon, regardless of immigration status, race or ethnicity.

There are many people who are driving on Oregon roads today without benefit of a driver's license. Not because they wouldn't be willing to obtain one, but because they are prohibited by law from doing so because of their immigration status. This makes Oregon's roads and highways less safe than they need to be.

There are many things we can do to make Oregon's roads safer, but ensuring that every driver knows the rules of the road and has passed a driver's test is one of the most important. There is a reason why the Department of Motor Vehicles licenses drivers. It is not to bestow a privilege on the chosen few. It is to make the roadways safe for all of us. Not just other drivers, but children walking to school, bicyclists, and pedestrians in crosswalks.

The opponents of this bill would tell you that people who don't have a license just shouldn't be driving, period. But let's be clear. People need to go to work to support their families. They need to go to the grocery store. They need to go to medical appointments. And unfortunately, Oregon does not have a public transportation system that would accommodate these needs. Certainly not in rural Oregon, where many immigrants work in agriculture. Not even in the cities and towns along the I-5 corridor. We are talking about hard-working members of our community who make a valuable contribution to Oregon's economy. Whatever your feelings about our country's broken immigration laws, the proper place to debate them is in Congress. Not on the roads and highways of our beautiful state.

So please, let us vote in favor of the safety of our roads and the Oregonians who use them every day. Vote Yes on HB 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Gies



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