

**Kate Brown**  
**Governor**



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Joint Committee on Transportation  
Testimony in support of HB 2015  
April 17, 2019, 5 pm, Hearing Room F

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Noble and members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Castillo and I am the Chair of the State of Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the committee on House Bill 2015. The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), along with the Commissions on API Affairs (OCAPIA), Black Affairs (OCBA), and Commission for Women (OCFW) exist statutorily to bring under-represented voices to the highest levels of state policymaking, studying and recommending equity focused policy. Each of our representative communities will be positively affected by the passage of HB 2015.

Specifically for OCHA, there are almost 550,000 Latinos in Oregon, 66% are US born and 87% are of Mexican origin. Our population is, on average, much younger than others. We are very family and community oriented, with a median age of 24 years. And as such, we have children who attend our public-school system and adults who work hard to make a better life for their families. Like all families we want to take our children to school, to their extracurricular events, sporting events, drive to work, go to our places of worship, and go about our normal daily business as residents of Oregon without fear and anxiety of a potential traffic stop or traffic violation. We also want our college-age residents to finally have the opportunity to drive to their college classes which would make their education more accessible and attainable. Rural and urban industries which rely on great workers to drive to work sites, and the Oregon economy needing citizens to be self-sufficient contributors to a robust community and economic future all depend on transportation and its citizens driving safely, with access to insurance.

Access to a driver's license has been a top priority for our community for over a decade. While this will not fix our broken federal immigration system, we can make sure those living in our beautiful state can feel safer, more secure and can drive legally with a driver's card. Passing HB2015 will make for a healthy, safe, secure, fiscally sound, and more inclusive Oregon.

We need our community residents to be able to access the expanded standard license option established in HB 2015 and in so doing pass a written and driving test, pay all necessary fees, and provide proof of identity and residency. As only citizens may apply for an enhanced ID, our resident Oregonians may apply for a standard driver's license which will only allow them to drive.

**OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

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David Yuen Tam, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Representative Carla Piluso

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

Jamal T. Fox, Chair  
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**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Irma Linda Castillo, Chair  
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Senator Sara Gelser  
Representative Teresa Alonso León

**OR Commission for Women**

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair  
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Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey,  
Researcher/Policy Analyst

As part of HB 2015, they will not use this ID to vote, their information will be protected, secure and not shared with the Federal government. In addition, application and materials will be anti-discriminatory to ensure people are not targeted for possessing a standard driver's license. This driver license expansion will benefit 80,000-100,000 Oregon residents. This is additional revenue for the State and increased safety compliance benefit for all Oregonians.

While all states struggle with the unresolved issues of the federal immigration system, this is a practical step that Oregon can take, benefiting Oregon business, road safety and access to driver insurance, economic contribution, and access to health and education for all Oregon residents with a standard license under HB 2015. We encourage you, abiding by our higher calling as an ethical, morally, and fiscally sound community, and as a Sanctuary State, to pass HB 2015.

Sincerely,



Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair



Jamal Fox, OCBA Chair



Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, OCAPIA Chair



Dr. Barbara Spencer, OCFW Chair