



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

To: Chairs Beyer and McKeown, members of the Joint Committee on Transportation
Re: SEIU's support for HB 2015

SEIU represents over 80,000 working class Oregonians in sectors from public services, to health care and long-term care, to property services. Our union works to achieve a higher standard of living by elevating the social conditions of our members, their families and communities to create a just and vibrant society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. HB 2015 is critical to building that just and vibrant Oregon we all are striving for.

SEIU has a diverse membership and many of our members are recent immigrants, long time immigrants, and not all have a traditional birth stories with access to documentation that would allow for access to a driver license under current law. This lack of access directly impacts the economics and working conditions of our members and thousands of Oregonians.

To have a job in many state agencies you are required to have a valid drivers license, the same is true to be a home care worker or to work as a route janitor or security officer. Even in the medical field our union represents jobs that require a drivers licenses to transport organs and carry passengers and equipment. By preventing some Oregonians from access to drivers licenses they are locked out of economic opportunities.

Our health care members and department of human services workers are also concerned about their ability to provide access to critical services for members of the community who may not have a drivers license. When patients arrive at clinics and hospitals around the state one of the first questions they are asked is if they have identification. By preventing thousands of Oregonians from having a license health systems have had to figure out work arounds to what many of us would consider a basic question.

For over a decade, tens of thousands of Oregonians have been blocked from receiving a driver's license. The lack of which has dramatic effect on families in our community. Simple activities that most Oregonians take for granted, such as grocery shopping, dropping kids off at school and picking them up, and medical appointments, are unnecessarily difficult, if not impossible. The lack of official government IDs also keeps people from engaging in other manners with their community. For example, parents can't volunteer at their children's schools, at hospitals were their family members work, as CASA volunteers, or advocates.

The absence of a driver's license does not just affect the immediate family: lack of access to health care affects entire communities; the inability to engage in one's children's education is a missed opportunity

for the entire classroom, and we are preventing thousands of Oregonians in engaging to create the vibrant communities we all rely on

For over a decade, the lack of access to a driver's licenses and IDs has lowered the standard of living for those who are directly affected, and the state. Today, you Representatives and Senators have the privilege and ability to fix this. HB 2015 is a critical next step in our journey to make Oregon a more vibrant society, one that is long overdue, and we urge you to pass it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you.