



To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director  
Subject: Statement of Support for the Equal Access to Roads Act (HB 2015)  
Date: April 17, 2019

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Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon's mission is to connect Oregonians to nutritious food, which includes advocating for policies that promote economic security for families and communities.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2015. The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people commute to work, take their kids to school, and take care of family and neighbors in need.

From the fruit we eat to the care on which older Oregonians depend, Oregon's economy and labor force are stronger because of immigrants. Immigrants pay taxes. Immigrants are entrepreneurs. Immigrants fill critical jobs in our economy. Being able to drive safely to work is fundamental to the health of all families and communities.

Oregonians shouldn't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply because they are going to work, taking their kids to school, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

HB 2015 upholds Oregon values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. In Oregon, we believe in welcoming others and building those bridges of understanding. In Oregon, we can choose a future without a culture of fear.