

April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Virginia & Donald Canavan  
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,

Our names are Virginia and Donald Canavan and we live in Springfield, Oregon. We urge you to support HB 2015.

We support HB 2015 because it would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver license to all Oregon residents who have difficulties accessing birth certificates and other necessary paperwork to prove their citizenship status.

Over 30 years ago, when I was temporarily living in Georgia, I was mentoring a young woman who had been abandoned by her parents and had traumatic experiences as she went through the foster system. I was trying to help her get a job, but she needed a driver's license if she was going to look for and get to work, but she had no ID. When I suggested that we start by writing to the city where she was born to get her birth certificate, she replied that she didn't know where she had been born. She only knew that it wasn't Georgia because she remembered riding with her parents for about 3 days when they moved. She wasn't even sure of her birthdate. I'm sure there are other young people in Oregon who are in the same position.

HB 2015 would make it possible for those with similar tragic young lives to become active participants in our communities. They would be able to look for and get to work, go grocery shopping, get medical care, and all of the other activities that those of us who take for granted our approval by the State of Oregon to drive a car already do.

This is also the situation so many other people without appropriate identification to get a Class C license: Oregon's undocumented population, people currently without homes, victims of domestic violence, and seniors.

By requiring that a person pass the written and driving tests, pay the fees, provides proof of identity and residency, our roads would be much safer and would make it possible for 80,000 to 100,000 Oregonians to meet their crucial transportation needs.

These are some of the reasons why we support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Virginia and Don Canavan  
1055 Prescott Lane, Springfield, OR 97477  
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