



Support for HB 3310

April 17, 2019

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, Vice Co-Chairs Boquist and Noble, Members of the Committee,

My name is Wlnsvey Campos and I represent the Bus Project. Our mission is to amplify the voice and leadership of diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. In our organization we center our work around building political power and strong, effective leadership pipelines for young people. Many of these young leaders can tell you the stories and their recollections that remind us that denying Driver's Licenses to those who cannot establish that they are lawfully present in our country, affects and penalizes entire families.

I can tell you how privileged I am to have been born in this country, and I can tell you how lucky I was that the year my dad's license expired and could no longer renew it, was also the year I was able to receive my license. For me, that meant/means taking on the responsibility to drive whenever it was/is necessary. The ability to drive—legally—is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Young people in our state often need to take time off of school or work (sometimes both) to fulfill that need when they become licensed - as tens of thousands of Oregon children are U.S. citizens living with at least one parent without legal status.

The reality of this situation is that the aforementioned can be a best-case scenario. Under our current laws, in many situations, families are in an impossible position. Without the ability to apply for a license to drive, parents are forced to make an impossible choice between risking arrest and deportation or choosing not to drive and being unable to provide for their families. In the Portland Metro area, we are fortunate to have access to several different transportation options. In my rural hometown in Southern Oregon, that is not the case; as is it not for communities across the state.

As an organization that envisions an Oregon where our communities are strong and resilient, our work is greatly impacted by the reality that, as our laws around Driver's Licenses exist today, many Oregon families risk their safety to take their kids to school, commute to work, and contribute to their communities. Furthermore, with safety in mind, requiring all drivers - regardless of citizenship or immigration status - to pass a written exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone.

The Bus Project asks that the committee vote in favor of House Bill 2015. This is a valuable and critical step to ensuring that our communities may be afforded the chance to live in this great state of Oregon without fear of deportation for the simple act of wanting to care for and empower their families.

Sincerely,

Wlnsvey Campos, Board Member of the Bus Project & Treasurer of the Bus Project Foundation

