

February 4, 2026

To: House Committee on Transportation RE: Please Support HB 4085: Creating Transportation Independence for Oregonians with Epilepsy

Dear Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation Oregon to urge your support of HB 4085. Autonomous vehicle technology can address significant transportation barriers facing people with epilepsy and create new opportunities for independence and full community participation.

Under Oregon law, individuals must be seizure-free for a specified period before driving. This safety measure often results in prolonged loss of independent mobility. The inability to drive creates barriers to employment, healthcare, social connection, and community participation.

If the Oregon Legislature passes HB 4085 and authorizes autonomous vehicle deployment, this technology could provide people with epilepsy:

- **Greater Independence and Dignity:** People with epilepsy who cannot drive due to seizure activity would gain the ability to travel independently without relying on family, friends, or limited paratransit services. This autonomy is essential for maintaining employment, attending medical appointments, and participating fully in their communities.
- **Reliable Access to Essential Services and Employment:** For people with epilepsy, reliable transportation means consistent access to neurologists, epilepsy specialists, medication refills, and emergency care. It also means access to employment opportunities, educational programs, and the social connections that combat isolation and support mental health.
- **Enhanced Safety for All Road Users:** Fully autonomous vehicles can help address and eliminate preventable crashes caused by human error; this technology makes our roads safer for everyone.

Transportation inequity disproportionately impacts people with epilepsy and other disabilities. We urge you to support Oregon joining them in creating solutions that honor the dignity, independence, and full participation of all community members - please vote yes on HB 4085.

We look forward to a future where every Oregonian can move safely and independently through their community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Koppes
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation Oregon