



Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane
County
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April 12, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Emily Heilbrun
Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County

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,

I am the facilitator of the Steering Committee of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County. We formed in 2016 with a mission to mobilize the community to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers, fostering their well-being and self-sufficiency. The Coalition urges you to support HB 2015.

HB 2015 would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status by returning the regular Class-C Oregon Driver License to a pre-2008 set of application requirements. The proposed bill:

- Allows all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver license, regardless of citizenship status.
- Provides protection to ensure a person's information is secured and not shared with the federal government.
- Provides anti-discrimination language to ensure a person isn't targeted for having a Class C license.
- Will have an implementation timeline beginning on January 1, 2021 to ensure success.

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County works with individuals who are residents of Lane County. Some are refugees; others have filed for asylum in the United States and await a decision on their applications. Like many others in our community who came here from other states or other countries, they have many reasons they need

to drive: to get to work and school, to shop, to get medical care, and for a host of other reasons.

It is best for all of us that law-abiding residents of Oregon be able to drive legally, after having passed the required tests, paid the fees, and proved their identity and residency. HB 2015 represents Oregon's values of fairness and of looking out for our neighbors. We believe in welcoming others, and in supporting them so that they can succeed and contribute even more to our communities.

Sincerely,

Emily Heilbrun
Facilitator, Steering Committee
Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County
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