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**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon**

April 17, 2019

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO) respectfully requests that the committee support the Equal Access to Roads Act (HB 2015), which would expand eligibility for a standard (Class-C), non-REAL ID driver's license to all Oregon residents, regardless of citizenship status. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is committed to civil rights, social justice and reproductive rights for all. We stand with our reproductive justice partners who have long proclaimed that the fight for justice and equity does not end with having the right to make reproductive and sexual health decisions; that fight must include advocating for people to have the power and resources necessary to raise and support their families in safe environments and healthy communities.

The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for Oregon families. In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, it is not practical or safe for people to walk for miles on country roads just to get to and from work, to the doctor, or take care of their families. Being unable to access a license to drive puts many immigrants without legal status in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation, or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family. Right now, if an immigrant without legal status is pulled over and driving without a license, they can be arrested and put on a pathway to deportation—even if they have no other criminal record and have lived here for years. Since 2016, deportations due to traffic violations have increased by 138%. Immigrants living in Oregon are part of our families, communities, workplaces and places of worship. Oregonians shouldn't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply because they are taking their kids to school, going to work or the doctor, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

The Equal Access to Roads Act allows all Oregon residents who meet the requirements to drive to keep or apply for a standard license with proof of insurance, identity, and residency. HB 2015 further ensures a person's information is secured and prohibits discrimination and profiling on Oregonians who have a standard license rather than a REAL ID-enhanced license. In addition to immigrants without legal status, many Oregonians, including the elderly, low-income individuals, people who are houseless and survivors of domestic violence, do not have access to documents needed to get an enhanced driver license. The standard license will help ensure that all Oregonians can access a license to drive and have a legal way to identify themselves. Furthermore, requiring all drivers to pass a driver's license test, provide proof of identity and provide proof of insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone. In states with similar laws, traffic accidents and hit-and-run incidents have decreased and the insured driver rates have increased significantly.

In Oregon, we believe in fairness, looking out for our neighbors and treating others as we would want to be treated. The time has come to ensure that all Oregonians have access to the critical ability to drive. The ability to apply for a license to drive gives all Oregonians the opportunity to follow the law, get to work and school safely, and provide for their families. We urge you to pass HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act.

Sincerely,

Emily McLain  
Executive Director  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon