

April 16, 2019

**To: Joint Committee on Transportation**  
**Re: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act**

Dear Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

My name is Lauren Gwin, and I live, work, and am raising a family in Corvallis, Oregon. **I strongly urge you to support HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act.** This bill will give all Oregon residents the opportunity to drive safely and legally, regardless of their legal status.

Corvallis is home to many immigrants who contribute to our community on many levels. These people and families are our friends, the parents of our children's friends, active in our schools, and fully committed to being here and giving back. In addition, research has shown repeatedly that many sectors of Oregon's economy depend on immigrants – they are working hard, they are productive, and they pay their taxes. They are making our communities and state richer.

All Oregonians should be required to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and have insurance – this is just common sense that makes everyone safer on the road.

And our friends and neighbors need to be able to drive legally and safely, regardless of their legal immigration status. Driving is a fundamental, everyday need for most Oregon families, to take kids to school and their activities, to go to work, to buy groceries and other necessities, to get health care services, and to take care of each other. This is especially true in rural communities with little or no public transportation, but also here in our small city of Corvallis.

In the halls of my kids' elementary school, I see moms and dads and aunts and uncles and grandparents helping their kids get a good start to their school days. When they head out into their own days, they should not have to fear being deported – being separated from those kids they love and care for – for driving to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment.

In my experience, Corvallis is a much better place to live because of the diversity of our community. This includes our neighbors who do not yet have the benefit of legal immigration status. We need them here, and they need driver's licenses.

Please support HB 2015.

Thank you,



Lauren Gwin  
Corvallis, Oregon