

April 5, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Causa  
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,

My name is Juan Navarro. I currently live in Corvallis, OR but was raised right here in the Salem area. I am a second-year masters student at Oregon State University, and I am part of the Rural Organizing Project as a fellow. I am the proud son of immigrants without legal status. I have two brothers (20 & 14) and sister (10). Passing the Equal Access to the Roads Act will have an impact on my family. My parents have been licensed drivers since the law changed in 2008. That's 11 years now without a license.

I am a DACA recipient, but I have been driving since before DACA came without a license. I remember being pulled over while getting my family food. That instance made my heart drop because I feared deportation. Lucky nothing happened to me. I talked to my dad after and he wasn't mad, but relieved. He said this "son, and I am not mad that you got stopped, I am relieved that nothing happened to you because you have a future here, we don't. We know our time is coming eventually and we want you and your siblings to be safe." These words hurt my soul. This country has beat down my parents so much that they know a simple stop could separate our family.

My parents have done so much for me. I came to the US to get surgery on my leg to be able to walk. I received six surgeries in twelve years and walked for the first time at age fifteen. This wade made possible because my mom drove me around to school and to rehab appointments and my dad hauled me to Portland every two weeks. They provided me with so much care that I can never repay. This testimony is my way of repaying my family.

See, this bill is personal to me. My mom, the beloved waitress and my father the hard-working field worker along with many more like them, deserve the same opportunity to drive in beautiful Oregon. Look at humanity in this situation passing HB 2015 would help ensure that the roads are safe for everyone and that no one is at risk from having their families separate from a traffic stop. You all have the power to look past the irrational fears of anti-immigrant groups and help Oregon stay safe. Don't do for me, do it for the waitress that serves your food, the field worker that picks your food, and the children of immigrants who depend on their parents.

Please do the right thing and be on the right side of history. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Juan Navarro