



CENTRO LATINO AMERICANO

April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: David Saez, Centro Latino Americano
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 David Sáez, and I am the Executive Director of Centro Latino Americano. We are based in Eugene, and we urge you to support HB 2015. Supporting HB 2015 is a vote for public safety and for supporting Oregonians, particularly hard-working parents and caregivers.

Requiring all drivers to get a license makes us all safer. This has been the case in other states with similar laws. In fact, these states have seen reductions in traffic accidents and hit-and-run incidents.

Many Oregonians do not have access to documents need to receive the enhanced license. This includes the elderly, immigrants without legal status, low-income individuals, people who are unhoused, and survivors of domestic violence. Centro is particularly interested in the impact this has on immigrant community members. Without the opportunity to access driver's licenses, immigrants without legal status are made to choose between driving without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family.

As Oregon moves toward a transition from the current licenses to compliance with the federally required Real-ID license, it makes logistical sense to incorporate a second option, a basic driver's license for all.

Public safety and supporting Oregonians in having equal access to roads is important for all Oregonians. This is why I support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Sáez
Centro Latino Americano
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