



Smart policies for today's families.

April 17, 2019

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2015
Equal Access to Roads Act**

Submitted by Courtney Helstein on behalf of Family Forward Oregon

Co-chairs Beyer and McKeown, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Noble, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2015 which would allow drivers licenses for all Oregonians. Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support women and families and help them succeed economically. The ability to drive legally is a foundational tool in achieving and sustaining economic security and why we enthusiastically support HB 2015.

Tens of thousands of Oregon children are U.S. citizens living with at least one parent without legal status. Without the ability to apply for a license to drive, parents are forced to make an impossible choice between risking arrest and deportation or choosing not to drive and being unable to provide for their families.

Women do the vast majority of caregiving – driving kids to school and taking aging parents to doctor's appointments. When we prevent Oregonian's from accessing driver's licenses, we are disproportionately harming women.

Furthermore, many domestic violence survivors, the elderly, houseless individuals, victims of natural disasters, and low-income Oregonians do not have access to the documents necessary to legally identify themselves under the strict REAL ID requirements. Ensuring all Oregonians can access a license to drive and identify themselves is important for the safety and security of our communities.

Here in Oregon, we believe in fairness and looking out for our neighbors. Everyday people going about their lives shouldn't face deportation and family separation because of a traffic stop. The ability to apply for a license to drive gives all Oregonians, including those without legal status, the opportunity to follow the law, get to work and school safely, and provide for their families and communities.

**We urge your support of HB 2015,
the Equal Access to Roads Act.**