

**TESTIMONY FOR HB 2015
JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY PHILLIP KENNEDY-WONG
APRIL 17, 2019**



Oregon Food Bank supports HB 2015. Lack of mobility puts people at risk to food insecurity and poverty. Whether it is to get to grocery stores, seek or keep jobs, take loved ones to school or the doctor's, reliable transportation is critical to meeting one's basic human needs. We support efforts to make transportation more accessible, safe, and legal for Oregonians as an effective strategy to combat hunger. House Bill 2015 accomplishes this and more.

An Oregon driver's license provides the ability operate a vehicle lawfully and is a necessity for many jobs. Your earning potential is greatly impacted by your ability to drive and, as a result, your ability to pay for the basic necessities of life. This particularly impacts people living in rural communities who have to travel great distances to get to work, doctors' appointments and the grocery store and who lack transit alternatives.

We recognize that a state driver's license is not a federal immigration document, especially since the implementation of the Real Id Act clarifies that. And it should not be used as a proxy immigration enforcement tool. An Oregon driver's license is simply legal verification that an individual can safely operate a motorized vehicle and obey the rules of road. It is also a communication tool for emergency responders to identify important medical information such as blood type or organ donation in life-saving situations.

Thank you for your consideration.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Oregon Food Bank
7900 NE 3rd Drive
Portland, OR 97211
971-645-2601
pkennedy-wong@oregonfoodbank.org

oregonfoodbank.org

