

## Testimony

Greetings, my name is Yomaira Tarula and I am a fourth year student majoring in Ethnic Studies. I am a proud to say that I am a daughter of immigrants. As the daughter of immigrant parents, I have been taught from a young age to “*ayudar a mi comunidad y los menos afortunados*” (To help my community and those less fortunate). This has resonated with me still to this day as I have seen our immigrant community, become the targets of anti-immigrant movements in the state of Oregon and across the nation. I am also proud to say that I interned for the leading organization in the state of Oregon when it comes to immigrant advocacy, coalition building and civic engagement within the Latinx immigrant community, Causa. I had the opportunity to be part of the efforts made these past general elections, to defeat Measure 105 against anti-immigrant agendas that want to divide and criminalize our immigrant community. Oregonians overwhelmingly voted in favor of our state’s 32-year-old sanctuary law. Oregonians made it clear that they do not approve of local law enforcement acting as an arm of the Trump Administration’s cruel deportation force. Unfortunately, the attacks by the Trump Administration continue to get worse. Trump’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers are using every excuse to detain and deport immigrants tear them apart from their families. Today, representatives have the opportunity again to fight for human rights of our immigrant community. Representatives, as you can see you have Oregonians advocating driver’s licenses for all, to keep our roads and communities safe. Many immigrants want to be able to drive safely from work, school conference or grocery shopping... immerse themselves in society, but there is restrictions which includes driving legally and carrying auto insurance. A person in my life that is a second mother to me and is undocumented, who is 40 today and has been in the United States since she was 14, unfortunately cannot take her cleaning business to service cities in more than 40 miles from where she lives, because everyday driving to work is a risk. I pray everyday that she does not get pulled over, or that she has enough work to make ends meet for her and her 5 kids. My aunt who has been in the United States for 20 years and has resided in Oakland, California could not even come to visit my mom when she had breast cancer because her and her husband are undocumented, do not have licenses and have fear being pulled over driving the roads from Oakland to Oregon. I can assure you that my aunt, my second mom and many undocumented folks are not criminals, they are humans beings that want to

contribute to our society. It's way past time for our state to step up and do what other states have done: ensure that all qualified drivers, regardless of immigration status, can have access to a license. States like California have already been experiencing the positive effects of granting undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses since 2015. A Stanford report released last year found there had been a significant decrease in hit-and-run accidents. Today we can start having conversations with your neighbors, friends, relatives about not only keeping our roads safe but having a more humane attitude towards working families across the state. I must make it clear that undocumented immigrants having access to driver's licenses will not allow for the purposes of voting or buying a gun, it would allow them to drive safely on our roads to the many of the agriculture, cleaning, and local restaurant business jobs they have without running the fear of getting pulled over and detained. We need to improve public safety by making sure that all drivers on the road are licensed. I urge representatives to pass HB 2015 drivers cards for all because this House bill deserves Oregonians' support.