February 5, 2020

To: Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

RE: HB 4065 – Relating to driving privileges

Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Miranda Mishan and I serve as the Community Development Policy Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 4065.

Debt-based drivers license suspensions create impossible choices for our Oregon's most vulnerable communities. Many individuals we serve at NAYA experience or have experienced extreme poverty or homelessness, and we see the impacts that debt has created within our communities. People of color and low-income people bear the brunt of debt cycles imposed by courts and civic debt, and we know the extent to which this debt can spiral out of control and have long lasting impacts on families, communities and intergenerational wealth.

While NAYA and other agencies can work to remedy the effects of these cycles, we are confident that a change in the system is necessary if we are to achieve racial justice and equity in Oregon. As one community member shared, getting your drivers license back is a huge step in the climb out of poverty. We hope that with the passage of HB 4065, we can make this climb easier for individuals and families in across Oregon.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, we urge the passage of HB 4065.

Thank you again for your time.

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