



DATE: May 18, 2023
TO: Joint Committee on Transportation
FROM: Maria Caballero Rubio, Executive Director Centro Cultural
RE: Testimony in favor of HB2951

Good evening Chairs Fredricks and McLain, and members of the Joint Transportation Committee. My name is Maria Caballero Rubio and I am Executive Director of Centro Cultural. I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), and on the Sheriff's Office Latino Advisory Commission. My career has spanned public safety and criminal justice at the city, county, state, and federal levels and I believe strongly that providing community education is vital to public safety. Centro has served all of Washington County since 1972 promoting economic mobility through workforce training, small business assistance, health and wellness, food security, and homeless services.

We have partnered with the Washington County Sheriff's Office for over 35 years to improve police/community relationships and to provide public safety and crime prevention awareness to our non-English speaking residents.

I am here this evening to ask for your support of HB2951 because driving without knowledge of the rules of the road is a public safety threat to all of us. For several years a segment of our population could not secure or renew a driver's license forcing them to drive unlicensed for work in remote locations or to meet family emergency needs. I have worked at Centro for 8 years and the demand for this service has been ongoing. Even this week, we have had several inquiries.

The proposed two-year funding will provide for:

- Instructors
- Materials and supplies
- Translation of curriculum
- Training venue
- Administrative support costs; and
- Subsidize license fees for those in need

Thank you for your time and for your support for this important initiative.