



Date: May 18, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Transportation:
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
Re: Support HB 2951-1, Spanish Driver's Education

Co-Chair McLain & Fredrick, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist & Boshart Davis, and members of the Committee

First and foremost, thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to ALL Oregonians. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of 2951-1. My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural.

The Latino Policy Council (LPC) believes systemic changes on issues critical to Latino and other communities of color are possible by working with the government and other decision-making structures—our work centers on policy change, equity, and racial and social justice. The Latino Policy Council is based in Centro Cultural de Washington County and connects with the organization's 50-year legacy to advocate for positive and transformative change.

LPC is in support of HB 2951-1 because we hope that the pilot program will address the disparities in the STOP data report and provide a service to Spanish-speaking community members who have not been able to access an Oregon Driver's licenses due to the inaccessibility of Spanish driver's education programs or poorly translated materials. In addition, LPC has members that serve on the Washington County Sheriff's Latino Advisory Council (LAC) who have first-hand knowledge about the importance of this bill and the community members it'll serve.

In 2021 the Washington County Sheriff's Latino Advisory Council (LAC) reviewed the STOP data and learned about the STOP data report that showed post-stop inequities impacting Latinos over other BIPOC drivers. For example, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation, in 2021, the test failure rate for Spanish test takers was 62%, 22% higher than for English test takers. Additionally, the Statistical Transparency on Policing Report has also shown disproportionate levels of citations,



searches, and arrests for Latino Oregonians in various communities, including Washington County. This information is critical to act on and ensure the Spanish-speaking community members who need to access an Oregon Driver's License have no barriers. Most importantly, we must address the disparities in these statistics that have impacted the Latino population.

Centro is the oldest Latino-led nonprofit in Oregon and works with the community to build systems that improve underserved communities. They mobilize essential services to meet the community's needs and work with regional, state, county, and city-wide agencies to advocate for more resources and equitable systems change to support communities of color. Centro has established a fifty-year history with the Latino community in Washington County. The organization is a trusted organization within the Latino community. Centro Cultural is undoubtedly the best choice to pilot this program. They are well-equipped to meet the need for a driver's traffic safety program in Spanish for Washington County residents. This grant program could promote long-lasting traffic safety and equity benefits that can serve as a model for other communities to increase the number of licensed Oregonians in Spanish-speaking communities and populations that speak different languages.

Please consider supporting HB 2951-1

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
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