

Submitter: Michaela Hammerson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2739

I am writing to oppose HB 2739, which would allow a registered vehicle owner to request that their registration card note limited English language proficiency (LEP) for themselves or someone operating the vehicle. I see this proposal as unnecessary, impractical, and a step in the wrong direction.

This bill adds pointless bureaucracy to a system that already works. Oregon goes out of its way to translate every government form and service for LEP individuals—driver's manuals, tests, and more are already available in multiple languages. If someone can navigate vehicle registration and licensing with these accommodations, what's the practical impact of slapping an LEP label on a registration card? It doesn't change a thing in a traffic stop or emergency—officers and responders still need compliance, not a note that explains why someone might struggle to communicate.

All drivers, regardless of English proficiency, must be held to the same legal standards for vehicle ownership and operation. Adding subcategories like this risks creating confusion and eroding accountability. Are we saying LEP drivers shouldn't be expected to follow the same rules as everyone else? That's nonsense. Driving comes with universal responsibilities. What's the point of this bill if not to signal a double standard?

HB 2739 is a solution in search of a problem. It wastes time and resources while undermining the principle that the law applies equally to all. I urge you to reject it and keep our vehicle registration system straightforward and fair.