

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and Vice Co-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis
Joint Committee on Transportation

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Co-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee:

My name is Jennipher Rebeca Lopez Jarquin, and I am a Community Member, representing Hood River County I'm writing to respectfully request your support for HB 2990, which intends to improve language access for Oregon's driver's license written tests.

This bill directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to revise the written test for Class C driver license applicants to make it more accessible and easier to understand—particularly for individuals who do not speak English as their primary language. Under this legislation, ODOT must submit a progress report to the Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15, 2026. The report will outline efforts to translate the test into multiple languages, improve readability, establish a timeline for the revised test, and detail the translation process, including attention to dialects and the qualifications of translators involved.

I haven't had a chance to get my driver's license. It is difficult the way the questions are, the responses are difficult to understand.

A lot of the answers are not in the study book, but they are in the test and some of the questions are not in the test, but they are in the study book.

It is important because we can drive legally, go to work and do diary activities, at the same time it is an official identification that is accepted in other places, another thing that is helpful is avoiding penalties and tickets and possible legal charges. Like the situation we are living in is so important to have a valid ID or driver's license so we don't get into a trouble at the moment we need to identify ourselves.

Buses have schedules and do not match family schedules. I do not qualify for medical transportation. Ambulances would create financial hardship.

Ensuring that all people in Oregon have a fair opportunity to obtain a driver's license, regardless of the language they speak, is vital to building strong, thriving communities. When people can access the licensing process, they're better equipped to pursue opportunities that support their health, well-being, and long-term success—and they are also better able to contribute to the economic and social vitality of their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony, and for your consideration of HB 2990.

Jennipher Rebeca Lopez Jarquin

Community Member
Hood River County