

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

My name is Marco Gonzalez, 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 did the driver license test 11 times, one of the big problems was the translation to Spanish. I know a lot of people are having this problem and the questions started to get confused because the translation is not correct.

Having a driver's license is so important and needed for all the people that live here in rural areas. We want to be able to drive to do our activities and have our families safe.

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.

Marco Gonzalez

Project Coordinator – The Next Door Inc

Hood River County