

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 Laura Martinez de Ceja, 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.

For me the test was easy to pass. I heard from my friends that it is difficult for them to pass the test. They mentioned that the vocabulary was so difficult to understand.

Having a driver license is so need more to drive to work and go to the grocery store.

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.

Laura Martinez de Ceja

Latinos en accion

Hood River County