



April 14, 2025

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

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the Policy Advocacy Director at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN aims to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

On behalf of our members, I am providing testimony in support of HB 2990 -2 to establish an office of language translation within the Department of Transportation.

The ability to drive legally continues to be a core everyday need for many of our farmworker families, especially in rural, agricultural communities. Farmworkers and low-wage Latinx workers take their kids to school, drive to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. However, we often hear from our Spanish-speaking community the challenges they face to obtain a driver license where they cannot pass the test due to poorly translated driving test questions. In fact, the fail rate for test takers who speak a language other than English is much higher than those who speak English as a first language.

We support HB 2990 -2 because it establishes an office to oversee and ensure consistent translation of essential transportation materials such as licensing exams, permits, manuals, and forms. The bill also explicitly calls for collaboration with organizations and acknowledges that immigrant communities must be at the table in shaping systems that impact our lives. Lastly, the grant funding for traffic safety education courses in Spanish and other languages removes a major barrier to legal, safe driving for many immigrants and refugees—especially recent arrivals and elders.

We believe that access to a driver's license is not just a matter of convenience—it is a matter of dignity, economic stability, and public safety. For many immigrants, the written driver's test represents a critical step in being able to work, care for family, attend school, and fully participate in community life.

We urge the committee to support HB 2990 -2.

Thank you.

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Policy Advocacy Director
PCUN