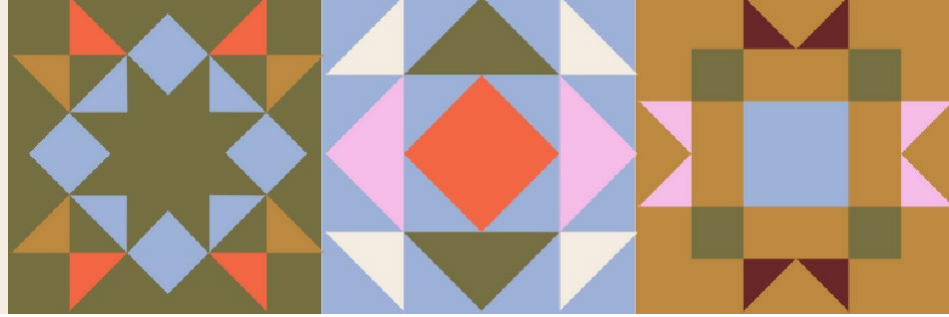




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Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 15, 2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Co-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mica Contreras, and I am the Executive Director of the Linn Benton Lincoln Health Alliance. In our community, this issue is not abstract; it is something we feel and face every single day. Language barriers in the licensing process have been brought to our coalition time and time again by community members who are eager to fully participate in Oregon's economy and civic life but are blocked by tests that are simply not accessible in their language.

That's why I'm urging your support for HB 2990. This bill takes a thoughtful, practical approach to fixing preventable language barriers. It requires ODOT to improve the accessibility of the Class C written test through accurate translation, clarity in wording, and attention to dialects. It also ensures transparency and accountability by requiring a progress report to the legislature by fall of 2026.

This matters across the region we represent and the entire state. Whether in a rural community where public transit is nearly nonexistent or in a city where navigating daily life depends on a car, the ability to get a license changes everything. It opens doors to jobs, independence, and dignity. HB 2990 is about fairness, opportunity, and public safety, strengthening Oregon's social and economic fabric.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our state. I respectfully urge your support for HB 2990.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mica Contreras".

Mica Contreras
Executive Director
Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance

