

Submitter: Alex Llumiquinga

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2990

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2990, which addresses the urgent and deeply rooted inequities in Oregon's driver's license knowledge testing system. As an organization serving the Guatemalan community in Lincoln County, we have seen firsthand how difficult it is for many community members to pass the written knowledge test. This is not simply an issue of access to a license—it is a barrier that affects people's ability to work, care for their families, and participate in essential aspects of daily life.

For many in our community, Spanish or English is not their first language. A large number of Guatemalan immigrants in our region speak Mam or other Indigenous Mayan languages, creating a significant language barrier. Even the Spanish version of the test, which should be a viable option, is difficult to understand due to inconsistent translations and confusing terminology. Our community members often share that the test language does not match the language or tone of the manual, making it extremely difficult to prepare effectively. As a result, many fail multiple times and grow discouraged.

The current system also restricts how the test can be taken—it is only available on a computer, which presents yet another hurdle for individuals with limited digital literacy. Additionally, the preparation classes that do exist are often expensive and limited in availability, making them inaccessible for many who are already struggling financially.

In our work, we see the real-life consequences of these barriers every day. People who are ready and willing to contribute—who need to drive to work, take their children to school, or attend a doctor's appointment—are being held back. A driver's license is more than just a legal document; it is a lifeline. It serves as a primary form of identification, critical for accessing healthcare, filling prescriptions, obtaining car insurance, opening a bank account, and so much more.

House Bill 2990 offers a much-needed and practical solution. It would establish a review committee to improve the quality and consistency of test translations, expand access to affordable test preparation classes, and ensure that both the manual and the test are truly understandable in all the languages in which they are offered. This bill is a meaningful step toward removing systemic barriers that have long excluded people based on language—barriers that deeply affect the Guatemalan and

Indigenous communities we work with every day.

We urge you to support HB 2990 and ensure that all Oregonians have a fair opportunity to obtain a driver's license. This is not only about equity, it is a matter of public safety, economic justice, and human dignity. It is about recognizing the worth and potential of every person in our state, regardless of the language they speak.

Thank you for your time, your commitment and your support for Oregon's diverse communities.

Sincerely,
Alex Llumiquinga
Director, Arcoiris Cultural