



**Date:** April 15, 2025

**To:** Joint Committee on Transportation

**From:** Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)

**RE:** Support for HB 2990

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

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, we are writing to support HB 2990 which intends to improve language access for Oregon's driver's license written tests. OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of nine regional health equity coalitions across Oregon. OHEA supports this bill because we believe everyone should have equal access to a drivers license regardless of the language they speak.

Our communities deserve to access a driver license in their own language, a driver's license is more than just a piece of identification. Many Oregonians use it as a way to access jobs, health care, education and other essential services. Without this our communities are put at a disadvantage and continue to face barriers that can be removed if this bill passes.

HB 2990 will not only ask the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to revise the written test for Class C driver license applicants, but it will also ask for a report that outlines efforts to translate the test into multiple languages, improve readability, establish a timeline for the release of the revised test, and detail the translation process, including attention to dialects and the qualifications of translators involved.

The legislature has an opportunity to address the fail rates in the knowledge test for drivers licenses in languages other than English since they are higher than those who take the test in English—this is a disparity that has been created in the knowledge test and Spanish translation that can be addressed with your support.

We urge your support on HB 2990 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Oregon Health Equity Alliance