



Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2990. People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for their families, and contribute to their communities. Our state is enriched by the different experiences, cultures, and traditions that all of us bring to our neighborhoods and communities across Oregon.

Innovation Law Lab has helped provide legal services to thousands of Oregonians over the past several years. Many of these Oregonians may need a driver's license in order to get to and from work, get to medical appointments, or other needed services. Some of the necessary evaluations that must be taken in order to qualify for a driver's license are not easily accessible to immigrants and refugees who may not be English speakers.

Many people who attempt to take these tests, but do not speak English as their first language, end up failing the exams because DMV documents and their translation is often not in plain language. This makes the materials challenging to understand for people, particularly considering that the training manuals may not match the translated tests.

HB 2990 would better enable ODOT to coordinate improved translations of written driver materials that are available to the public. This could include knowledge testing, manuals, education materials, and other related forms. The bill would also authorize the agency to award grants for traffic safety courses.

This is an important bill to pass to ensure that all Oregonians can get to work, get the medical care they need, and contribute to their communities and economies. We urge your support of HB 2990.

Sincerely,

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy
Innovation Law Lab