

Submitter: Michelle Hsu
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2990
Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Michelle Hsu and I'm a Research and Project Coordinator for the Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance. I am writing to request your support for HB 2990.

In a state with limited public transit options, a driver's license is not a luxury but a necessity. It is time for ODOT to review inconsistencies and ambiguities in its current exams. This would reduce barriers and improve accessibility to passing the Class C written test. Anyone who studies and practices the test should be able to pass and this has not been the case. The test can and should be revised so that people who study and invest in classes can pass the test and obtain a driver's license. Providing accurate language translations where manuals and tests are matched would be a start. The glaring discrepancies between pass rates of the written test between non-English speakers and English speakers reveals an issue that requires attention.

This bill would positively affect our rural areas where access to a license and car in emergencies is crucial. A drivers license provides opportunities for livelihood, education, connections to community and personal and family agency. Your support of HB2990 will make Oregon a safer place to drive and create safer environments for all those who can obtain this standard form of identification for our daily tasks.

Thank you for your service as well as your kind consideration. Please support HB 2990.

Michelle Hsu