



April 16th, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: Support for HB 2990

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

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) **supports the passage of HB 2990**. CCC is a member-based non-profit that advocates for communities of color to receive equitable resources.

HB 2990 **would establish an office of translation within the Department of Transportation to improve translations of written materials** available to the public, including knowledge testing, manuals, educational materials, and forms.

A Class C Knowledge Test must be completed to obtain a driver's license in Oregon, however, the fail rate for test takers who speak a language other than English is higher than native English speakers. This is due to a lack of consistency in translating DMV documents leading to the manual language not matching the test language, and making it harder for Oregonians to be prepared to take their knowledge test.

In 2019, the Oregon legislature passed HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act, allowing all Oregonians access to a driver's license regardless of their immigration status. The high failure rate of those who speak languages other than English undermines the goals of HB 2015, which sought to increase all Oregonians' access to driver's licenses.

HB 2990 would establish a program for awarding grants to community based organizations to provide traffic safety education courses. Oregonians failing their knowledge test due to language reflects deep gaps in ODOT's translations and inequities that were not addressed by previously awarded grants. Passing this legislation and increasing grants awarded to communities will improve outcomes for Oregonians applying for a driver's license.

HB 2990 will increase livability and road safety, ensuring economic stability for immigrant communities and non-native English speakers by fulfilling ODOT's past promises of accessible and linguistically appropriate education, materials and outreach.

Sincerely,

Alex Riedlinger, Advocacy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color