



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director  
In Support of HB 2015 – Equal Access to Roads Act  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
April 16, 2019**

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon<sup>1</sup> strongly supports HB 2015, The Equal Access to Roads Act, which would provide *all* Oregonians the opportunity to apply for a Class C driver's license.<sup>2</sup>

**It is essential for all Oregonians to have access to driving privileges, regardless of their ability to provide documentation that proves lawful immigration status.**

Without a license to drive, individuals cannot perform the most essential daily functions and activities, such as taking their children to school, going to medical visits, grocery shopping, or going to and from their places of employment. In addition, expanding access to driver's licenses is critical for highway safety.

**HB 2015 will benefit both U.S. citizens and Oregonian immigrants.** In 2006, for example, as many as 13 million United States citizens lacked ready access to documentary proof of their citizenship, including 12 percent of low-income citizens earning less than \$25,000 per year.<sup>3</sup> Under this bill, these individuals who lack birth certificates and passports will still be able to access a driver license.

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<sup>1</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, the Oregon legislature passed SB 374, which set in motion the creation of a REAL ID-compliant Oregon driver's license, which will be available next year. Oregonians who have documentation that proves legal presence will be able to choose to obtain this new form of REAL ID-compliant identification or retain their standard class C driver's license. HB 2015 will then allow *all* Oregonians to apply for a standard class C driver's license (as was the case before 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Citizens Without Proof: A Survey of Americans' Possession of Documentary Proof of Citizenship and Photo Identification, Brennan Center for Justice, November 2006, available at [http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/d/download\\_file\\_39242.pdf](http://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/d/download_file_39242.pdf).

**HB 2015 provides anti-discrimination and confidentiality provisions that will protect all Oregonians who obtain a standard Class C driver's license.** These provisions will ensure that any Oregonian resident who wishes to carry a standard Class C driver's license can apply for this driving privilege without fear of discrimination, and will assure Oregonians that for state purposes, there is no functional difference between the Class C and REAL-ID compliant licenses.

**For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act.** Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.