



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

April 15, 2019

To: [Joint Committee on Transportation](#)  
Co-chairs [Senator Lee Beyer](#), and [Representative Caddy McKeown](#)

Re: [HB 2015](#) – Modifies Driver’s License Requirement – **Support**

We support HB 2015 because the ability to get to work is a necessity for getting and retaining a job, especially in rural Oregon. The League of Women Voters of the US position states that all persons should receive fair treatment under the law, and espouses that “*one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.*” The League of Women Voters of Oregon’s workforce position states “*...the state has a role in supporting the sound and fair relationship between farmers and the agricultural workforce, with the goal of economic and social justice for both parties.*”

In response to terrorist attacks on the US, the US Congress in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) passed the federal Real ID Act of 2005. All states must be fully compliant with the DHS requirements by October 1, 2020. Among others, provisions of the Act include:

- New federal standards for state-issued driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards
- Changes to visa limits for temporary workers, nurses, and Australian citizens
- Tightening laws on application for asylum and deportation of aliens for terrorism

The Real ID act contains certain driver’s license provisions that will adversely affect many Oregonians without documents for legal presence in the US from pursuing self-sufficiency.

An applicant for a Real ID card must provide the following documentation:

- A photo ID, or a non-photo ID that includes full legal name and birthdate
- Documentation of birthdate
- Documentation of legal status and Social Security number
- Documentation showing name and principal residence address
- Digital images of each document will be stored in each state DMV database

In 2008, the rules of the Act were modified to leave implementation of verification requirements to the discretion of states ([Federal Register, Vol. 73, Number 19, 2008 01 29, page 5297](#)). A later rule revision allows states to offer “**not for federal ID**” licenses. Utah and Tennessee have already started issuing “driving privileges certificates/cards” in lieu of regular driver's licenses, allowing applicants to be tested and licensed to drive and obtain liability insurance. (Wikipedia)

The LWV believes that it is vitally important to ensure that there are provisions in place to enable the self-sufficiency of all Oregon residents. In 2017, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed **SB 375** that authorized the Department of Transportation to offer two types of driver’s licenses: the standard driver’s license available today, and a Real ID compliant license which individuals can use to board commercial aircraft and access other federal facilities that do require documented proof of legal status and Social Security number. The Real ID-compliant cards will be available July 1, 2020 and Oregon DMV is currently updating systems to comply with the issuance of Real ID licenses.

**HB 2015** modifies requirements for issuing of the standard, non-commercial driver’s license or learners permit. It continues the use of our standard driver’s license, but without the need for proof of legal status

and a social security number. The DMV will accept a Social Security number assigned to the applicant by the United States Social Security Administration *or* **a written statement that the person has not been assigned a Social Security number.**

Requiring immigrants, seniors, and others without legal documents or a social security number to prove their legal status, in order to obtain driver's licenses and get liability insurance, has kept many Oregon immigrants and foreign nationals from working, and in some cases from obtaining housing, causing some to lose their jobs. Visitors on J-1 and H1B visas are even required to travel internationally to renew their driver's license, making the process extremely complex. Currently, an often older, undocumented person, who is the main support for the family, may not be able to drive. They must be driven by a licensed family member or friend to work or to get healthcare, shop, go to school or attend community events. This puts a great deal of stress on everyone involved. Denying so many of our Oregon workers the ability to drive to work in order to provide for their families, is an injustice and undermines the self-sufficiency of the family in meeting basic needs.

Imposing such unnecessary hardships is an injustice. Almost everyone is in agreement that the US Immigration Law is broken, yet a solution seems a long way off. The law has not been changed for decades, and yet the changes in the *implementation of the law* and the *ability to acquire legal status* have become increasingly restrictive. The wait list for changing legal status through the few remaining legal avenues left open is decades long! Most undocumented immigrants have been signed up for years awaiting citizenship or papers to prove legal status, and have been law-abiding and paying taxes for decades.

The Oregon Department of Transportation and the Elections Director confirm that only applications from those who meet age and citizenship requirements will be forwarded for automatic voter registration.

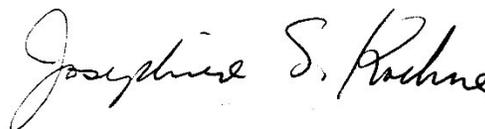
Making a driver's license unobtainable for this population, especially when so many live in rural areas is punitive. These residents are our friends and neighbors, they love this country, and their children were born here and are US citizens. They are a part of our community and a mainstay of our agricultural workforce. They should not be deprived the vital privilege of driving. Driving licenses should be granted to those who learn the rules of driving, pay the fees, follow the laws of the road and have the proper car insurance. We are all safer as a result. Licenses should not be used as a tool to punish people who are unable to prove legal status, which is an entirely unrelated issue.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports HB 2015 and urges your vote in favor.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President



Josephine Koehne  
LWVOR Public Records and Transparency