



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

June 18, 2019

To: Chief Clerk Sekerak

Re: Vote Explanation HB 2015

Chief Clerk Sekerak

House Bill 2015 is a necessary measure. It aligns us with the rest of the nation. Since passage of the REAL ID Act by Congress in the early 2000s in the wake of the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks upon our country, we have been working towards an integrated identification process: in simplest terms, a federal program managed through the states. HB 2015 is required for us to comply with the higher standards of presence proofs established through the REAL ID Act. Absent passage, many Oregonians would be inconvenienced at the airport, entering federal installations, and/or at the border when seeking to return from travels abroad.

What the bill does is this: established an “enhanced” Oregon Driver’s License eligible for recognition by the federal government. Those unable to meet the criteria required by the REAL ID Act may be eligible, with passage of written and driving demonstration tests, for a driver’s license. This is necessary for all Oregonians either unable, or unwilling, to show proof of citizenship. Many aged, at-risk, and homeless members of our community cannot demonstrate the proofs now required by the federal government. Accordingly, a standard (as in not “enhanced”) card will be only good in Oregon for purposes of driving privileges and/or identification proofs.

Here’s the bottom line: HB 2015 is a necessary step for Oregon to take. It makes our state safer more secure, through better management of residency; it complies with new federal requirements that will ensure our people aren’t unnecessarily inconvenienced when interacting with the federal government. I believe passage of this measure is a critical need; it is about national security and individual liberties, nothing less or more.

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans  
Oregon House of Representatives  
District 20