

TIFFINY MITCHELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 32



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 19, 2019

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to file an explanation for my “aye” vote on House Bill 2015.

Driving is an essential part of everyday life in many parts of Oregon for many Oregonians. That includes the North Coast where I myself have spent many hours driving up and down Highway 101 to visit constituents throughout our large district. In our community, local advocacy groups often highlight how important the ability to drive is to so many hardworking members of our community, including those who work on farms, in seafood processing facilities, and in the hospitality industry. Without driver’s licenses, people are often out in lose-lose scenarios where commute times are so long that it becomes impossible to get by.

Under the new standards, the state will offer two different types of driver’s licenses: the new, enhanced federal Real ID-compliant license, that can be used for air travel, access to federal buildings, among other things; and the standard license which will only be a license to drive. To get the enhanced license, Oregonians must submit additional identification documents and proof of citizenship. The standard license would be available to all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay necessary fees, provide proof of insurance, and provide proof of identity and residency, regardless of citizenship status. This ensures that every Oregonian including those who may not have access to the necessary documentation required to receive a Real ID, like the elderly, domestic violence survivors, victims of natural disasters, houseless individuals and immigrants, are still able to obtain a driver’s license.

This legislation also ensures that Oregon’s roads are safer. Having a driver’s license means drivers know traffic laws and are required to have the minimum amount of car insurance. That is good for every other driver on the road.

House Bill 2015 makes sure that we do right by the most vulnerable people in our communities, who just want to be able to get to school, work, and church like the rest of us.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitchell

