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1.	02/18/2026	Virtual public hearing	Erik F., Career Pathways Coordinator at Pacific Refugee Support Group	<p>Transcribed:</p> <p>“I just wanted to go through a couple things that I noticed during the past year and a half of running our organization CDL program. I personally launched the organization CDL program in April 2024 to help refugees and humanitarian parolees enter the trucking industry. Our program operated for approximately 1.5 years and that was definitely impacted by the Federal Motor Transportation Department's decision in September and October. And then also just, you know, lack of funding. We're a pretty small organization. We received grant funding from ODHS, the Oregon Department of Human Services, and a lot of our grants were community specific, so we were helping Ukrainians, Afghans. We had a CDL participant from Syria as well, and all of our participants attended fully licensed CDL schools in Oregon. They completed testing at state licensed third party sites and the CDLs were issued through the Oregon DMV. From our end, obviously there was no corruption, shortcuts or improper training, which I know, their law kind of was targeting some of that. And that was not the case. Some participant in commitment and outcomes. All of our participants that were seeking refuge from war or corrupt governments, etc. They moved here, went through proper training, proper everything, improved English proficiency and passed their CDL exams in English, which I know is also now a rule of the [FMCSA]. They studied safety regulations, road rules and federal transportation requirements. And out of the 25 participants, we were able to help, approximately 18 of them obtained trucking employment to achieve financial independence, stability and reduced reliance on public assistance as well. A couple examples I wanted to give, one of our very first participants he moved here from Ukraine as a war refugee and after going through schooling and passing everything in English and learning, he was able to get a job with a local Ukrainian company. And then actually upgraded to a car hauling company where he picks up cars from auctions, brings them back to the employer and is making very, very good money supporting his family.</p> ”

			<p>Another participant that I wanted to highlight was an Afghan participant, formal special forces from Afghanistan and also ally of the US military in Afghanistan who learned English. He didn't speak English when I met him, but he learned English, obtained a CDL and secured trucking employment in Oregon and then moved to California. Just another example of somebody that moved here wanted to support their family, went through the proper channels, improved their English. I know the impact of the new rule is currently prevents lawful CDL holders from renewing licenses and blocks qualified graduates from entering the workforce and also disrupts employment stability and workforce integration for people that have already gone through that. So my position would be I fully support this. I think it's fantastic considering the majority of our participants did secure employment. And I believe we're a little bit worried about what will happen when that ends. So I'm in full support of that and I support allowing lawfully trained non-domiciled CDL holders to renew and maintain their licenses. ...There's this idea of, you know, enforcement of this should target fraud and...not penalize lawful people. I know that there might be some stories like that, but I think that might be a few bad apples and all of our participants were compliant, loving the industry and really making, you know, America move. That's what the truckers do. Without them. They're kind of the bloodline. So these guys are a part of it and they went through everything proper and I'm really, really, really proud of them and appreciate your time and I'm in full support of this to help them continue their careers. Thank you... Quick question, I know the proposed rule that we're discussing today would be positive for people that held the CDL non domiciled before the 29th of September, but with the CLP, am I understanding that correctly? If somebody had a CLP before the 29th of September that they would be able to go to school, and then my follow-up question would be, I've read the rules on the federal government's website and moving forward, they want people to have American citizenship, certain visas or green cards. Would this rule still allow them to get it on a valid work authorization I-94 and work permit?"</p> <p>Margaret Geer, DMV response: "...if somebody had a CLP that was unexpired before 9/29/25 or on that date, you ask, 'will they be eligible for CDL limited</p>
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2.	02/18/2026	Virtual public hearing	Alina S., Career Coach at Refugee Career Pathways program at Immigrant and Refugee Committee Organization	<p>Transcribed:</p> <p>"I'm the Career Coach at Refugee Career Pathways program at Immigrant and Refugee Committee Organization. I'm the person who works in this program and our program is funded by the federal government. We are the Office of Refugee Resettlement and all money that we support our clients in the program comes directly from federal budget. I'm in this program since 2019 and I'm helping people. Also, one of the parts of the program helping people to develop their career pathway in the US, get professional jobs and many of them who were participating in my program successfully completed and got employment through their commercial driver experience and licensing. Until August 2021, until the conflict happened in Afghanistan, we didn't have any experience such as this restriction that we meet right now. After that time that I mentioned before, Afghanis start coming to the US</p>

				<p>with Parliamentary status, then Ukrainians start coming when the war started in Ukraine after February 2024. And those people are eligible for public benefits. They are eligible for my program, for Refugee Career Pathways program and we were successful with this. I just did yesterday, case load checking how many people were affected when this rule happened on September 29th, 2025. Based on my record, it's up to 70 people that have been affected with this new rule. I checked how successful they were in my program and 90% of 70 people who got a CDL have successfully placed for a job. They open their own businesses. They become operators. Some of them even take a credit or loan for new trucks because they are developing their businesses in transportation, so they are really successful. Moreover, I was in touch with several of my clients who already counted their taxes, and only for this year, some of them paid between \$20,000 for tax up to \$30,000. So this is good economic support for our country in general. What happens right now? It's not only about the economic [impact], it's about families. Most families who arrived in the US as head of household, they support financially...So if the government decides to eliminate these options for them, they have to look for other options. So it's stressful. It's overwhelming for them. They have to look out for others. So it affects all their families, not only that one person. I just want to make sure that's so important. If Oregon would be able to support and implement this idea that you present to us today, it would be so helpful for them and so good for them, because all of them are continuing to have and renew their parolee status in the US. They want to be legal. They want to be following the law. For example, if we were talking about the Afghani people, they were able to apply for asylum. And in even this case, they can get green card. But green cards are sometimes delayed. And because of this they can lose their CDL and stop working. Later, they maybe can get a green card, but because of long time interruption they have to retake the full course again. So this rule will be affecting all humanitarian parolee people who are even under the pending asylum status. So I'm fully in support as a career coach who works with the people who are affected by this law. I work with them closely and I see if Oregon would be able to implement this idea and help our clients to continue to work... my clients who will continue to support their families, help get stable</p>
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				when I am sure the clients is ready. So even from my certification, I'm sure that everyone who gets CDL they able to speak. They've gone through the English training, not any anything hidden. They improve. I work on them and only through the English, so that part is not their consideration."
3.	02/18/2026	Virtual public hearing	Liban S., WorkSource Portland Metro	<p>Transcribed:</p> <p>"I'm also an employee at [WorkSource] where we do approve, review and approve the scholarships for the clients that you had, what Alina talked about, what Erik talked about. All those clients, they end up coming to us. We are the ones who review the scholarship application. And we do approve. We work directly with driving schools and we are the ones who pay for the fees on the DMV. So everything, any part that involves funds, we do that and we have seen the impact and how it has affected these people. We sit with them, we ask them all the questions, we collect all the documents that are required, all the legal documents we collect from them before we even review and approve the scholarship application. We get to know these people. Just like our families. As it was mentioned, some are [Afghanis], some are Ukrainians and these were really hardworking people. These are people who are able to find employment immediately. They passed their CDL test. The challenges that we come across is those people who had already started the training and some had already completed the training. They passed the training and somehow it was cut short, some could not go the DMV. Some already got the CDL. They were in their jobs but could not renew their license. And these are people who have already started stabilizing their life. Others were young couples, husband and wife, who want to work as a team. And so many companies who have had a hard time to get staff, employees, now they are. The average was a little bit higher. We find the roads on the road, so we were having a working nation where people pay taxes. So all this has been affected. And we also, for many, we make sure that selective services process is gone through. We look at the Green Card, I don't want to repeat all what Alina and Erik have said, but we are like the last defense line. We make sure that everything has been done correctly before we approve. Where do we get our funds from? The DHS, from the Oregon Department of... the WorkSource, we work together with the work systems, they are our direct bosses, so nothing that is done is</p>

				<p>incorrect. We make sure that we go to the last bit. And make sure that everything is done. So the idea you've come up with, we do really appreciate and it will bring a lot of change into this whole community and these are community where hard working. Sometimes we ask them, do you receive food stamps, do you receive unemployment? They say we don't want these things. We want to work so hard. We want to [work] for it. So these are hardworking people. Some already have experience driving trucks back home. Some are mechanics. They have all these talents. They want to come here and polish it. And so I appreciate what you guys are doing. Please, let's work on it. Let's support them."</p>
4.	02/18/2026	Virtual public hearing	Victoria B., general public	<p>Transcribed: I am here for advocating for my husband. I will share a little story about him. My husband recently came to the US as a United for Ukrainian and couldn't be waiting for his green card because we get married here. He already has work authorization and we're still waiting for his green card for about two years. I don't know why it took that long. But he worked as a CDL driver for one year and currently, as the process of green card, we already have a referral, and an authorization for work for the two years, but he is not able to update his CDL because of the situation with the DMV and everything that happened. I am the one who works in the family and my income is not enough to cover all of the living expenses, including rent, food and other things and bills. Our family in the [?] of my husband being able to work. And also everything he was providing for the whole family. He is really good in English because in the process of waiting for his renewal CDL because he was waiting for authorization for work in previous case. It was like give the permission for updating your CDL through the authorization for work. But after they change everything, and currently we really need the CDL for him because it's affecting our family. It's affecting me and him so hard. I understand that there is a risk and the federal rule is updated all the time. But I understand that for the people who have a financial risk and the situation like we have, it's really needed. For updating this information and because of this it will be very helpful if DMV and Oregon give the permission for updating you or anybody who have this opportunity to work, work in US and update their CDL license. So I think that's pretty much all and I hopefully</p>

				think that they will do something with this because we really like need it currently to update the CDL because in five months I believe his CDL will be expired and he has to take everything and begin from the beginning to update all his CDL how I heard before, so. We really need this.
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