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Mid-Columbia Health Equity Coalition secures partnership commitment with Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services

After three years of sustained advocacy, coalition organizing, and community testimony, Mid-Columbia Health Equity Coalition (MCHEA), one of Oregon's nine Regional Health Equity Coalitions, secured a partnership commitment with the Oregon DMV to address longstanding inequities in the driver's knowledge test for Spanish-speaking communities. Representative Muñoz and Representative Nelson provided crucial support for this work at the legislative level.

Through this collaboration, the DMV will work alongside MCHEA to review the Spanish-language driver's manual and knowledge test, ensuring that translations use plain language and reflect cultural consistency.

This partnership marks a significant step toward reducing language barriers for Spanish-speaking communities in Oregon and expanding equitable access to driver's licenses. Access to a driver's license is a social determinant of health that enables people to reach medical appointments, transport children to school, and sustain employment, all of which are essential to individual and family health outcomes.

Spanish will be the first phase of this work, with plans to expand to additional languages over time.