SUPPORT SAFE DRIVING:  
Driver’s Licenses for ALL Connecticut Motorists

Connecticut law conditions eligibility for a driver’s license on federal immigration status. This prevents 54,000 Connecticut immigrants from getting licenses—even though they need to drive to support their families. These unlicensed, uninsured drivers increase insurance premiums in Connecticut by $20 million each year. Nationwide, unlicensed motorists are five times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than licensed drivers.

Providing a way for Connecticut immigrant motorists to obey driver’s license laws will make everyone on our state’s roads safer. These immigrant drivers will need to be tested on their driving skills and on the rules of the road, and purchase insurance.

How Connecticut Benefits When All Motorists Get Licensed

- Police will be able to identify motorists during stops and check their traffic records.
- Witnesses to crimes will be more comfortable reporting crimes to the police and cooperating in investigations once they have identification.
- Drivers will be more likely to stay at the scene of an accident to aid police and emergency workers and exchange insurance information with other motorists.
- Police will be unable to use “driving without a license” as a pretext for racial profiling and harassment. This is what led to the federal indictments in East Haven.
- Limited court time and jail space will not be wasted on drivers who are there solely for driving without a license or insurance.
- Insurance rates will fall for everyone. Connecticut policy holders will save $20 million each year.
- The State will earn two million dollars in revenue per year from new registrations.
- Immigrants who can drive legally will be more likely to work, spend, and contribute to our economy.

What Other States Are Doing

Washington and New Mexico already require all immigrant motorists to get driver’s licenses. Since New Mexico made this change in 2003, its rate of uninsured motorists fell from 33% to under 9%. New Mexico also saw a 32% decrease in alcohol-related crashes and a 23% drop in traffic fatalities. Both states also use strong procedures to verify identity and residence documents. Illinois and Maryland have enacted similar legislation in recent months, and numerous other state legislatures are currently considering similar legislation.

Join the Safe Driving Coalition!

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