Driver’s Licenses for ALL: Economic and Safety Benefits

All Illinoisans will benefit when 250,000 Illinois immigrant motorists 
get tested, get licensed, and get insured.

**Insurance savings:** Unlicensed, uninsured immigrant drivers cost $64 million in damage claims that other policy holders must cover. If these drivers can get licensed and insured, that cost of covering accidents involving uninsured motorists will decline, and insurance rates will fall for everyone.

- Since New Mexico began issuing licenses to undocumented immigrants in 2003, its rate of uninsured motorists fell from 33% to 9%. In Illinois, 15% of motorists drive without insurance.
- If half of the 250,000 unlicensed immigrants got licensed and insured, Illinois policy holders would save $46 million per year in premium payments.

**State revenue:** Immigrant motorists would need to pay at least $30 to get a license.

- If 50% of the 250,000 currently unlicensed immigrant motorists got licenses, the State would receive $3.75 million in new revenue.
- If 75% of these motorists got licenses, the State would receive $5.63 million in new revenue.
- These motorists would also need to pay each time they renew their licenses, and could be charged additional fees to cover any security and fraud prevention measures or other costs.

**Economic participation:** Immigrants who can drive legally are more likely to work, spend, and contribute to our economy. A 2011 Oregon Department of Transportation study found that

- undocumented community members had trouble making large purchases and reduced their activities outside the home because they could not get driver’s licenses
- undocumented workers also risk losing jobs due to their inability to get to and from work.
- immigrant families were also less able to get to grocery stores or malls and are limited in their purchases because they have to walk.

**Safety:** Since New Mexico began issuing licenses to undocumented immigrants in 2003, alcohol-related crashes decreased 32%, and traffic fatalities fell 23%.

Requiring undocumented motorists to get licenses will ease the burden on courts and jails.

- In Lake County, 470 (28%) of all motorists booked at the county jail for traffic offenses from October 2011 through September 2012 were immigrants who could not get licenses.
- In Cook County, 47,850 tickets were issued in 2011 to motorists for driving without a license.

In addition, police will be able to use licenses to identify motorists during stops and check their traffic records. And first responders and health care providers will be able to use the license to identify the individuals they are assisting.

For more information, contact Rebecca Shi, 312 576-8032 or rshi @icirr.org.


**Supporters**

**Law Enforcement**
- Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran
- Kane County Sheriff Patrick Perez
- Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart
- Evanston Police Chief Richard Eddington
- Berwyn Chief of Police Jim Ritz
- Melrose Park Chief of Police Rosa Pitassi
- Cook County Judge Jesse Reyes
- Cook County Judge Patrick McGann (retired)

**Elected Officials**
- Governor Pat Quinn
- Former Governor Jim Edgar
- Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan
- Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka
- Senate President John Cullerton
- Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle
- Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios
- Cook County Clerk of Circuit Court Dorothy Brown
- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel
- US Rep. Luis Gutierrez
- US Senator Dick Durbin

**Insurance**
- Illinois Insurance Association
- Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois
- AON Corporation
- CNA Commercial Property and Casualty Insurance
- Mesirow Financial

**Business**
- Illinois Green Industries Association
- Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Restaurant Association
- Pete’s Fresh Market

**Health Care**
- Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC)
- Alivio Medical Center
- Cook County Hospital
- Holy Cross Hospital
- MacNeal Hospital-Berwyn
- Norwegian American Hospital
- St. Anthony Hospital
- Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital
- Sinai Health System
- Weiss Hospital-Chicago Lakefront
- West Suburban Hospital-Oak Park
- Westlake Hospital-Melrose Park

**Universities**
- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Roosevelt University

**Labor**
- Chicago Federation of Labor
- Chicago Teachers Union
- Niles Township Federation of Teachers
- North Suburban Teachers Union
- SEIU Illinois State Council
- SEIU Healthcare
- SEIU Local 1
- SEIU Local 73
- Teamsters Local 705
- Teamsters Local 742
- Teamsters Local 777
- UE Electrical Workers
- UFCW Local 881
- UNITE HERE Local 1

**Faith**
- 8th Day Center for Justice
- AJC Chicago (American Jewish Committee)
- Dr. Byron T. Brazier, Apostolic Church of God
- Catholic Conference of Illinois
- Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition
- Iglesia Amor del Padre
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- New Hope Apostolic Ministry
- North Shore Unitarian Church
- Our Lady of Tepeyac
- Priests for Justice
- Project IRENE
- Protestants for the Common Good
- Providence of God
- St. Agnes of Bohemia
- St. Adalbert
- St. Ann
- St. Clare
- St. Gall
- St. Joseph (Back of the Yards)
- St. Joseph (McHenry County)
- St. Mary Star of the Sea
- St. Nicholas of Tolentine
- St. Plus V
- St. Rita Catholic Church
- Sisters and Brothers for Immigrants
- Sisters of Mercy
- United Congress of Community and Religion Organizations

**Community Organizations**
- Albany Park Neighborhood Council
- Arab American Family Services
- Asian American Institute
- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
- Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum
- Cicero Area Project
- Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
- Community Health Partnership
- Community Renewal Society
- CONFEMEX
- Enlace Chicago
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Family Focus Aurora
- FEDCMI
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois People’s Action
- Immigrant Youth Justice League
- Inner-city Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
- Instituto del Progreso Latino
- Korean American Community Services
- La Voz Latina (Rockford)
- Latino Organization of the Southwest
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
- Mexican Cultural Institution
- Mexicanos Latinos en Accion
- National People’s Action
- Northern Immigrant Alliance
- Northwest Side Housing Center
- Polish Initiative of Chicago
- Southwest Organizing Project
- Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
- Spanish Community Center (Joliet)
- The Resurrection Project
- United African Organization
- United Congress of Community and Religion Organizations
- West Suburban Action Project (PASO)
- WINGS: Women in Need Growing Stronger