



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING ACCESS TO DRIVER'S LICENSES TO UNDOCUMENTED NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, _____ values the contributions of all residents, including immigrants, to the economic health, cultural diversity, and public safety of the [City/County]; and

WHEREAS, _____ recognizes the fundamental importance of all of our residents' ability to participate in civic life, ensure the health and safety of their families, and to move freely across this State; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey law currently prohibits undocumented residents from obtaining a driver's license; and

WHEREAS, other states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington, and Utah, as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico do not prohibit access to driver's licenses based on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the safety of _____'s roads would be enhanced if all residents of appropriate driving age were tested, trained, licensed, and insured, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has documented that car crashes rank among the leading causes of death in the United States and that approximately one in five fatal crashes in the United States involve an unlicensed or invalidly licensed driver; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey would become safer with fewer uninsured and unlicensed drivers on the road, resulting in a predicted decrease in fatal traffic accidents and fewer hit-and-run crimes; and

WHEREAS, the public safety of _____ would be enhanced by helping bring immigrant communities out of the shadows to participate more fully in civic life, building trust and cooperation between immigrant communities and law enforcement and encouraging immigrant communities to report crimes and serve as witnesses in criminal investigations; and

Driver's License Model Resolution 2015

(1)

Questions: Contact Johanna Calle, Program Coordinator, at jcalle@njimmigrantjustice.org

WHEREAS, New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) estimates that if New Jersey law were changed to expand access to driver's licenses to undocumented residents, between 153,000 and 278,000 New Jersey residents would apply for a driver's license within the first three years of eligibility; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to driver's licenses would enhance New Jersey's and _____'s economy; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants pay an estimated \$476 million in state and local taxes in New Jersey each year; and

WHEREAS, NJPP estimates that New Jersey insurance companies would take in over \$200 million in additional premiums per year, saving money for existing policyholders by expanding the pool of policyholders and reducing the number of claims against uninsured drivers; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey would take in millions in new revenue from fees paid by new driver's license applicants and license renewals; and

WHEREAS, _____'s local economy would be bolstered by strengthening the mobility of its workforce and enhancing economic participation in undocumented communities; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by _____ that _____ supports expanding access to driver's licenses to undocumented New Jersey residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass legislation and urges the Governor to sign legislation expanding access to driver's licenses to undocumented New Jersey residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the Municipal Clerk to the offices of Senator _____; [Assemblyman/woman _____]; [Assemblyman/woman _____]; and Governor Chris Christie.

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(2)

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