

GREEN LIGHT NEW YORK: Equal Access to Driver's Licenses

Pass the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act

Making driver's licenses available to New Yorkers regardless of immigration status will improve equal treatment of immigrants, make our roads safer, and help our economy.

Across New York, undocumented residents struggle to get to work and take their children to school because they do not have access to driver's licenses.

The Driver's License Access and Privacy Act (S.1747/A.3675) will make our roads safer, raise state revenue, allow immigrants to lead fuller lives, and reduce the risk that a routine traffic stop can result in arrest, detention, or even deportation.

The Driver's License Access and Privacy Act will give immigrant New Yorkers equal access to a basic transportation necessity.

In many parts of the state, being able to drive is necessary to get to work, bring children to and from school, and get to medical appointments. Many people without licenses must spend hours navigating spotty public transit or rely on expensive taxi services for their daily needs. Denying people the ability to get a driver's license denies them the chance to participate equally in everyday life. People who pass all the necessary driving tests shouldn't be denied a license just because of their immigration status.

Making driver's licenses available to more New Yorkers is good for public safety.

This legislation will make our roads safer by ensuring that more drivers have passed driving tests and more cars have been insured. All of us are safer on the roads when fellow drivers know the traffic laws and have had their cars registered and inspected.

Licensing more drivers is good for New York's economy. Licensing thousands of new drivers will bring in new registration fees. The Fiscal Policy Institute estimates that this will produce \$57 million in annual revenue and \$27 million in one-time revenue.

Licensing can help keep families together. Federal immigration enforcement has run amok in recent years, separating families across our country. When immigrant drivers can carry driver's licenses like everyone else, it means one less reason that a simple traffic stop could lead to families being torn apart.

The bill also contains provisions designed to make sure that driver's license records are used for driving-related purposes, and can't be accessed or disclosed for improper reasons.

Expanding license access to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, is good for public safety, good for other drivers, and good for our economy. A dozen states have already made driver's licenses available regardless of immigration status. New York should be next.



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