



Twelve Benefits of Driver's Cards for Undocumented Immigrants

Economic Benefits

1. **Additional state revenue.** If 28,000 potentially unlicensed drivers in the state apply for and are granted driver's cards, the state will receive at least \$2 million in additional license revenue. Additional revenue may also result from increased auto registrations.
2. **Lower insurance premiums.** Because insurance companies will have more customers and will pay fewer claims for uninsured drivers, premiums could be reduced for everyone.
3. **Economic growth.** Individuals will be able to travel to jobs where they are needed and businesses that have held off expanding due to a lack of workers will be more likely to find the employees they need. This is especially important in rural areas where immigrants fill jobs on farms, in factories and in construction.
4. **Reduced backlog for law enforcement and the courts.** Reducing the large number of cases related to driving without a license would reduce language interpreter and court costs and allow judges and law enforcement to spend their time on more serious priorities.

Public Safety Benefits

1. **Safer roads.** According to a study by AAA, unlicensed drivers are almost five times more likely to be in a fatal crash than are licensed drivers. If individuals must pass vision and driving tests, they are more likely to be safe drivers and make the roads safer for all.
2. **Increased trust and cooperation with law enforcement.** Having a valid driver's card for identification will likely increase the willingness to report crimes. It will also help first responders and health professionals more quickly identify witnesses and injured victims if there is an accident.
3. **Fewer hit and run incidents.** Licensed drivers are much less likely to leave the scene of an accident. After California passed its driver's license law in 2015, the state experienced a 10% decline in hit and run accidents.
4. **Improved national security.** According to security experts, it is counterproductive to deny identification documents to immigrants because that hampers the ability of law enforcement to identify the small number who might pose a security risk. It also excludes them from the most comprehensive and reliable database of adults in the country.

Community Benefits

1. **Increased educational support and enrichment.** Parents will be more likely to meet with teachers, counselors and administrators and children will be more likely to participate in after-school enrichment activities that require transportation.
2. **Reduced school absences and stress.** Children of undocumented parents will no longer be afraid to have a parent drive them to school if they are late or miss the bus. Eliminating the stress of worrying about a parent's safety may also lessen the potential for behavioral and mental health problems.
3. **Healthier families.** Individuals will not hesitate to go to the doctor, pick up a prescription or get preventive care for themselves or their children if they have proper identification and do not have to fear being detained for unlicensed driving.
4. **Increased community involvement.** Many immigrants are already strong contributors to our community. With driver's cards, more individuals might be able to contribute their time and talent to help our community thrive.

(courtesy Racine Interfaith Coalition)

The Honorable _____

Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative _____

This letter is sent to urge your support of driver cards to individuals who are unable to provide documentary proof of legal status as mentioned in the Governor's Budget.

While this proposal may seem like policy it actually effects the State Budget. If 28,000 additional drivers apply for, and are granted Driver Cards, it will add as much as 2 million dollars per year to state revenue.

These individuals are essential workers and driving is necessary. Without proper documentation they may find themselves driving without licenses or with false documents. Providing them with an opportunity to obtain a limited driver's license will enhance our traffic safety efforts as well. These drivers would be required to take a driving examination that would not only focus on their ability, but also on their knowledge of traffic laws. Those granted a limited license would be required to have their license renewed every two years as compared to an eight year renewal for regular licenses. Once these driver cards are issued, individuals would be eligible to obtain automobile insurance, thus reducing the number of uninsured drivers in Wisconsin.

I ask the legislature to carefully consider this measure and support limited driver cards for undocumented individuals. These special licenses would augment traffic safety in the City of Racine and throughout Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

TALKING POINTS FOR PHONE CALLS

We are representing JONAH AND WISDOM, a non-partisan, faith-based group. Part of the overlying goal of this coalition is preserving Healthy Communities.

A Healthy Community means:

- Safe roads
- People operating legally
- People who feel secure and act responsibly

Being a member of a Healthy Community requires

- Finding a way for undocumented people in our communities to drive legally
- Safeguards for drivers on the road
 - Drivers who know the rules
 - Drivers who are tested on skills and knowledge of the road
- Knowing that other drivers on the roads have insurance
- Lowering the incidence of hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident because of fear

Driver Cards, issued by the DOT, for undocumented residents would require:

- Pass a written test
- A driving test
- A vision test
- Purchase car insurance
- People with a Driver Card would be entered in to a DMV Data Base
- Helps law enforcement by providing positive proof of identity

Driver Cards are a way of maintaining our public safety, building healthy communities and a source of revenue for the state. To this date 14 other states have adopted Driver Cards with Utah being one of the earliest states to adopt.

Latinos in Wisconsin

- The fastest growing segment of the total population of Wisconsin
- The fastest growing segment of the workforce
- The fastest growing segment of the K – 12 student population
- 40% of essential dairy farm labor are Latino immigrants
- 90% of essential fruit and vegetable production are Latino
- 27% of the essential manufacturing labor force
- 15% of essential hospital and education resources
- Essential workers in the restaurant industry

Latino residents make countless positive contributions to Wisconsin Communities and have kept us going during the pandemic. Driver Cards are an easy reward for all their hard work.

(courtesy Racine Interfaith Coalition)