



Help All Massachusetts Residents Drive Safely:

Please Support the Safe Driving Bill (H.2985; Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Sen. Jehlen)

Problem: For many Massachusetts residents, there is currently no path to comply with our driving laws. In Massachusetts, many residents are ineligible for driver's licenses solely because of immigration status. An applicant for a driver's license or learner's permit in Massachusetts must provide a Social Security Number (SSN) or acceptable immigration visa code, which only some documented immigrants possess. All other Massachusetts residents who are immigrants are barred from becoming trained, licensed and insured drivers. Yet, most families continue to need to drive – to take children to school or doctor's appointments, buy groceries or large items that cannot be transported on foot, and perform other tasks requiring transportation. Under the status quo, many families are driving without licenses, particularly in areas of the state with limited public transportation. **Preventing some residents from taking a driver's exam and carrying liability insurance harms us all.**

Solution: "An Act Relative to Safe Driving" (Senator Jehlen and Representative Farley-Bouvier). By removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit, the Safe Driving bill would allow all MA residents to become trained, licensed and insured -- making our roads safer for every driver.

The Safe Driving Bill Would:

- ***Save Lives*** – By increasing driver knowledge of Massachusetts traffic laws, the Safe Driving Bill would reduce fatal road accidents, and would also help our first responders identify those they assist.
- ***Save Police Time and Resources*** – By eliminating time-consuming inquiries into individuals' true identities in traffic stops, the Safe Driving Bill would free our police to focus on their top public safety priorities.
- ***Address Fraud and Conserve Court Resources*** – By helping to address the black market for false licenses, the Safe Driving Bill would reduce the time courts spend adjudicating cases based on fake identification.
- ***Increase Compliance with Mandatory Insurance Requirements*** – By providing a means for all drivers to obtain a prerequisite to insurance, the Safe Driving Bill would credibly require all motorists to share the responsibility of mandatory liability insurance. Reducing the rate of unlicensed, uninsured driving would more equitably distribute insurance costs. **No one should have to be in an accident with an uninsured driver.**
- ***Increase RMV Resources*** – By raising fees paid for driver's licenses and learner's permits, the Safe Driving Bill would increase the Commonwealth's resources. The RMV estimated in 2014 that a Safe Driving Bill would raise nearly \$15 million through fee payments.
- ***Support Our Economy*** – By improving access to businesses less accessible by foot or public transportation, the Safe Driving Bill would remove a current barrier to commerce.

Increasingly, our nation is eliminating immigration status as a barrier to safe driving. Washington, California, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Vermont, Connecticut & Washington D.C. all allow and require all their resident drivers to be trained, licensed and insured.

For More Information:

Sen. Jehlen's Office: Daniel Smith, Daniel.Smith@masenate.gov or 617-722-1578

Rep. Farley-Bouvier's Office: Lisa Fletcher Udel, Lisa.FletcherUdel@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2240

MIRA Coalition: Shannon Erwin, State Policy Director, serwin@miracoalition.org, 617-350-5480 x222

Brazilian Immigrant Center: Natalicia Tracy, Executive Director, Ed@braziliancenter.org, 617-784-2756

32BJ SEIU: Katie Belgard, Political Director, kbelgard@seiu32bj.org, 617-878-7411



The Safe Driving Coalition is a diverse group of over 60 organizations and businesses in Massachusetts supporting passage of the Safe Driving Bill, including:

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD); The African Council; Agencia Alpha;
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLUM); American Friends Service Committee (AFSC);
Anti-Defamation League; Berkshire Immigrant Center; Brazilian Immigrant Center;
Brazilian Women's Group; Boston New Sanctuary Movement; Brockton Interfaith Community;
Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores New Bedford (CCT); Cleghorn Neighborhood Center;
CEDC of Southeastern Massachusetts; Centro Cristiano Tiempo de Dios; Centro Bom Samaritano;
Chelsea Collaborative; Clinicians for Healthy Families; Committee for Portuguese Legislation;
Congregacion Leon de Juda; Dominican Development Center; Essex County Community Organization (ECCO);
Framingham Adult ESL Plus; Greater Worcester Immigration Coalition;
Hampshire Franklin Central Labor Council; Harvest Ministries of New England;
Iglesia de Dios de la Profecia de Lynn; Immigration Pastoral Center, Inc.; Imperial Auto LLC;
Irish International Immigrant Center; Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC); Joyce & Associates, P.C.;
Just Communities of Western Massachusetts; La Comunidad, Inc.; Latino Health Institute;
Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA); Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS);
Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN);
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA);
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI); Metro West Worker Center; Midwest Grill; MIRA USA;
Muqueca Restaurant; Merrimack Valley Project (MVP); New Lynn Coalition; Lynn Worker Center;
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence; Maria Luisa de Moreno Int. Foundation; Neighbor to Neighbor (Worcester);
Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE); Radio 650 AM; Rapo & Jepsen Insurance;
Safe Kids Massachusetts; 32BJ SEIU District 615; 1199 SEIU; SEIU Local 509; Spettus Steak House;
Sonia's Auto Car; Stephen W. Gersh Insurance Agency, Inc.; Temple Hillel B'nai Torah; UNITE HERE Local 26;
United Interfaith Action of Southern Massachusetts; Western Massachusetts Jobs with Justice;
Worcester Interfaith.

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