

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Robyn Gulley—I am a City Councilor in West St. Paul, Minnesota and Co-Chair of Local Progress Minnesota. I am very proud to support Driver's Licenses for All (H.F. 4/S.F. 27). This is critical for members of my community who otherwise may not have access to licenses or the critical safety and access they provide.

Until 2003, all Minnesotans had access to driver's licenses; anyone who qualified could take the driving test and access everything that a license would afford—insurance, banking, travel, and so much more; as we have limited access to driver's licenses, so have we limited these things and made our communities less safe for everyone. Restoring driver's licenses for all will benefit all Minnesotans. Here are some of the ways driver's licenses for all make everyone safer:

They make our roads safer for everyone

- Minnesotans without immigration status would need to pass a written and driving test to obtain a license, ensuring all drivers are certified to drive.
- Driver's licenses for all means fewer accidents. Issuing licenses to immigrants without immigration status led to a [9% decrease](#) in hit-and-runs in Connecticut and a [7-10% decrease](#) in California.
- With licenses, undocumented drivers will also be required to purchase auto insurance. After passing laws that allow undocumented drivers access to licenses, [Utah and New Mexico both saw significant drops in their rates of uninsured drivers.](#)
- **It benefits families and the economy**
 - In Minnesota, annual income would increase an estimated [\\$2,000-6,000](#) for full-time workers lacking immigration status if permitted to obtain a driver's license. That means more spending, boosting Minnesota's economy for all of us.
 - [Greater Minnesota and the agricultural sector depend on immigrant workers](#), who need safe and legal access to roads in rural areas with little to no existing public transit.
 - All drivers benefit from [lower auto insurance rates](#) in states that grant driving privileges regardless of immigration status.
 - In Oregon, research found that barring immigrants lacking immigration status from receiving driver's licenses would likely cause the state to [lose \\$134-201.9 million in gross domestic product](#) due to the difficulty they would have in accessing their jobs without driving.
 - In New York, research showed that [newly licensed immigrants would buy and register more cars.](#)
 - Research in New York and Massachusetts found that [government revenue increases created by permit and license fees and license renewal fees easily exceed any costs.](#)
 - [Connecticut's DMV collected \\$7.5 million in license fees over four years](#) – offset by just \$300,000 to ramp up the new license program
- **It makes life safer for our immigrant neighbors and friends**
 - As of 2018, [30,700 U.S. citizen children in Minnesota](#) have parents who lack immigration status, 2.4% of all children under 18 in the state. For these mixed-status families, issuing licenses to parents means giving U.S. citizen children safer access to essential services like education and healthcare.
 - [Law enforcement supports](#) creating access to driver's licenses for all immigrants to be able to verify everyone's identity, giving them greater ability to protect public safety.

- Allowing immigrants to obtain licenses regardless of immigration status would grant greater ability to enforce laws in immigrant communities. Allowing them access to a license, a way to drive legally, and a way to identify themselves to law enforcement would increase trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, leading to greater collaboration and cooperation.
 - Immigrants with access to driver's licenses are able to help their citizen children go to school, to the doctor, and to activities and employment, building stronger families and communities for all.
- **It keeps our communities healthy in the fight against COVID-19**
 - [69% of individuals without immigration status work in front-line jobs](#) considered "essential" to the U.S. fight against COVID-19. We need to ensure they have safe, reliable transportation to work.
 - [Driver's licenses improve healthcare access](#) and health outcomes for Minnesotans lacking immigration status, which strengthens our entire community's health.
 - **Restoring access to Drivers Licenses for All will protect victims of domestic violence**
 - Victims of domestic violence are particularly vulnerable without access to a driver's license.
 - Abuse rates among immigrant women are as high as 49.8%, according to the [National Organization for Women](#). This crisis was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Immigrant women have dramatically fewer people they can turn to, and not having a driver's license impedes their ability to create a safety plan.
 - **Restoring access to Drivers Licenses for All will expand children's access to healthcare**
 - Parents without a driver's license, especially in rural areas, face barriers accessing services such as healthcare, nutrition, and educational opportunities for their children.
 - Teens with undocumented parents tend to have higher levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms. These children are more likely to need health care and need a parent with a license to be able to drive them to access care.
 - When Utah began licensing drivers without status, immigrant mothers were better able to get adequate prenatal care.

Restoring driver's licenses for all is critical for my community, and I implore you to take action on this today.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions at all—rgulley@wspmn.org or 612-558-6019.

Respectfully submitted,



Robyn Gulley
West St. Paul City Councilor
Co-Chair Local Progress Minnesota