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Drivers License for Undocumented Immigrants

It is a great honor and a pleasure to be able to express my most sincere and honest remarks on behalf of this proposition. As we all know, the privilege and opportunity of obtaining this hearing is due to the hard work of those in favor of this proposition and the hard work of community leaders, organizations, those who uphold positions of power and the community itself.

With this being a heated and argumentative topic, I am here to express the reasons I believe undocumented immigrants should be able to obtain a Drivers License here in the state of Kansas.

As a person who has lived in Kansas for over 17 years, I understand the importance of safety. As a 5th grade teacher, I understand the importance of safe roads and the structure needed to be able to effectively manage multiple people at once.

Allowing 75,000 undocumented drivers to be held accountable for their driving allows safer roads for everyone, mainly United States Citizens.

It allows these drivers to be able to take a drivers test and making them familiar with road expectations and regulations. This allows drivers to be more cautious and know that they have a privilege to lose, just like any other person with a regular drivers license.

By being able to issue these licenses, it gives the states government more power and structure of who is driving what, and what is being done by who. It allows these drivers to be able to obtain drivers insurance and register vehicles under their name and the ability to buy and rent a vehicle, creating more revenue for the state.

It will create state revenue by increasing the amount of insured vehicles, creating travel opportunities, helping open bank accounts, vehicle registration and many more ideas that can accommodate and positively impact the states economy.

As of today, there are 12 states who currently issue driver's license to immigrants. These states are Delaware, Nevada, Washington and Utah, not necessarily a "blue state", just to name a few. According to "The Colorado Fiscal", In New Mexico, a state where Drivers License are issued to undocumented immigrants, the number of uninsured vehicles has decreased by 24% from 2003-2011 (eight years), while the amount of alcohol-related fatalities has decreased 32%, simply because these drivers are being held accountable for their actions and are able to be tracked, just like any other driver.

With this being said, just like these states who allow immigrants the privilege to drive, these Drivers licenses will be able to be used only for identification purposes and as a permit to drive. They must not be used for any federally funded or related programs such as voting, or boarding a plane, but merely as a simple I.D and must be able to be easily identified.

With parent-teacher conferences coming up this next week, I experience first hand the frustration that it can be for some parents who cannot attend, because of a need for a ride or fear of being pulled over, because parents decide to be behind the wheel. As a teacher, I want all of my students to have the equal opportunity to be able to attend conferences, sporting events, fundraisers and student activities.

Parent involvement is essential to the success of students and the guidance that is needed to create respectful, outstanding, law abiding citizens.

By giving undocumented immigrants the opportunity of a well regulated drivers license, it allows families to fulfill their basic needs of running errands, opening a bank account, obtaining drivers insurance, renting a hotel, buying a concert ticket or simply buying DayQuil.

As a community server, and an immigrant myself, I believe it is my duty to speak of the benefits of allowing undocumented immigrants to drive. It will positively impact the state in an emotional, social and economical way by ensuring the safety of all Kansas.

Resources

<https://www.coloradofiscal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/drivers-license-for-undocument-immigrants-cfi.pdf>

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-kansas>