

# Driver's Licenses for All Immigrants

## QUOTES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

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. . . when we prevent people from obeying the law, we place them and ourselves needlessly at risk. Senate Bill 60 [a bill that would have allowed all drivers, regardless of immigration status, to obtain a license] corrects that inequity by allowing everyone who wants to operate a vehicle to do so legally by obtaining a license and purchasing required insurance.

**William Bratton, Chief of Police, Los Angeles, California**  
*Press release from the office of Mayor James Hahn, Aug. 14, 2003*

. . . having drivers able to purchase insurance is a benefit which cannot be overstated. The number of cases involving uninsured, unlicensed drivers without current registration placed an enormous burden on our court system. Since this law [Utah's law enabling individuals to substitute an individual taxpayer identification number for a social security number when applying for a driver's license] has been enacted, tens of thousands of licenses have been issued to formerly non-licensed drivers.

**Lloyd D. Evans, Chief of Police, Park City, Utah**  
*Letter to Lieutenant Ron Price, Police Dept. of Albuquerque, NM, Nov. 8, 2002*

. . . we strongly believe it would be in the public interest to make available to these communities the ability to obtain a drivers license. In allowing this community the opportunity to obtain drivers licenses, they will have to study our laws and pass a driver's test that will make them not only informed drivers but safe drivers.

**Rudy Landerso, Assistant Chief of Police, Austin, Texas**  
*Testimony in support of HB 396, Apr. 7, 2003*

The issues of illegal immigration and obtaining a driver's license need to be considered separately. The safety of the driving public should be the issue.

**Timothy F. Bukowski, Sheriff, Kankakee, Illinois**  
*Email correspondence, July 16, 2004*

Expanding opportunities to obtain drivers' licenses is not incongruent with homeland security considerations; on the contrary, allowing law enforcement to positively identify individuals within our state will help law enforcement to identify potential threats and reduce vulnerability and raise the feeling of security of citizens and non-citizens alike.

**Ronald Miller, Chief of Police, Kansas City, Kansas**  
*Letter to Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee, Nov. 20, 2003*

This Association endorses the concept of finding a suitable way to properly and lawfully allow taxpaying foreigners living and working in this state to register and insure motor vehicles and be properly identified and licensed.

**Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association**  
*Letter to Members of the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Romney, Oct. 28, 2003*

We need to have a realistic system that respects the rights of our hard-working, tax-paying residents to have access to a document that is fundamental to day-to-day functioning within our society.

**Dean Esserman, Chief of Police, Providence, Rhode Island**  
*Letter to President of Rhode Island Senate, Mar. 16, 2004*

I am in agreement that this [a bill to grant licenses to immigrants regardless of status] will promote the safety of our roads. In addition, this bill would assist law enforcement by having identification and insurance availability for immigrants as well as vehicle registration.

**Greg L. Solano, Sheriff, Santa Fe County, New Mexico**  
*Letter to Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Jan. 24, 2003*

I have been in the public safety business for 33 years. In my experience, I would rather have a foreign national with reliable identification, a registered name, and photo and fingerprints that my officers can check while in the field than the information we have now, which is nothing.

**Albert Najera, Chief of Police, Sacramento, California**  
*Sacramento Bee, June 13, 2004*

The Framingham Police Department fully realizes the difficulties immigrants face in obtaining driver's licenses and wholeheartedly supports efforts to find an acceptable method for licensing law abiding residents.

**Steven B. Carl, Chief of Police, Framingham, Massachusetts**  
*Letter to the Safe Drivers Coalition, Aug. 8, 2003*

It appears the common goal is to make the State of Tennessee (and America) safe and having both road knowledgeable individuals and proper identification are essential. The price of Freedom is a united front to those that oppose us and we must make our homeland secure and safe to enjoy our liberties and freedom. We ask you to seriously consider not pursuing this legislation [to repeal the law allowing all immigrants licenses] in light of the coalition's position.

**Phil E. Keith, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police**  
**David Woolfork, Tennessee Sheriffs Association**  
*Letter to the Chair of the House Transportation Committee of the General Assembly, Apr. 9, 2003*

Idaho relies on immigrant agricultural workers for our economy. Many of these workers do not possess a Social Security Number. The workers must drive around the state from field to field for work whether they have a driver's license or not. This causes a safety threat to other drivers. They have not proven their knowledge of state highway laws and most are not eligible for auto insurance without a driver's license.

**George W. Nourse, Sheriff, Canyon County, Idaho**  
*Letter to Idaho Dept. of Transportation, Nov. 22, 2002*

Drivers who have lawfully obtained a Minnesota drivers license have met a minimum standard of knowledge and practice. Let us use this as a benchmark for obtaining a license instead of legal status.

**William K. Finney, Chief of Police, St. Paul, Minnesota**  
*Letter to St. Paul City Council, Jan. 26, 2004*

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