DRIVING FAMILIES FORWARD

An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility

*H.3012* (Farley-Bouvier and Barber) and *S.2061* (Crighton)

This bill would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver’s license, regardless of immigrant status, while keeping out Commonwealth in full compliance with REAL ID requirements.

- **Tested and insured drivers make the roads safer for everyone.** We want all drivers to know the rules of the road, pass the same driver’s test, and be properly registered and insured. It’s in our state’s interest to increase the number of insured drivers in order to boost our economy and make our roads safer.

- **Driver’s licenses increase public safety.** A 2017 Stanford University study found that California’s law to expand licenses to unauthorized immigrants, AB60, led to improved traffic safety by reducing the number of hit and run accidents. Hit and run accidents can lead to serious injury because of a delay in medical reporting and can leave those involved in an accident without financial recourse.

- **Driving is essential to mobility in Massachusetts, especially outside Greater Boston.** Public transit options are far too limited to enable most residents to get to work, take their children to the doctor, or buy groceries. Notably, 78% of Massachusetts workers age 16 and older get to work by car, truck or van – 71% driving alone. Even in Suffolk County, 48% of people rely on personal vehicles, 41% driving alone.

- **More drivers can have a positive effect on our state’s economy.** State revenue will increase as more residents pay for licenses and auto registrations. Fewer uninsured motorists and more drivers in the insurance pool could also lower everyone’s insurance rates. In states like New Jersey that are also considering passing this law, it’s estimated that insurance companies will bring in about $233 million in additional premiums each year and the state of New Jersey would take in $11.7 million in license fees.

- **In the Trump era, immigrant families risk being torn apart every time they drive.** In the first two years of the Trump administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests of people with no criminal convictions more than tripled. A major factor of this spike is a fivefold increase in arrests of immigrants who’ve been charged with an offense but not yet convicted. The most common charges are traffic offenses. By making driver’s licenses available to all, regardless of immigration status, we can reduce the devastating impact of Trump’s deportation agenda on Massachusetts families.

- **Immigrants who are currently barred from driving are a vital part of Massachusetts’ social and economic fabric.** An estimated 185,000 undocumented immigrants lived in Massachusetts as of 2016 – roughly one-fifth of the immigrant
population. Many live in mixed-status families; about 1 in 20 U.S. citizen children in our Commonwealth live with at least one undocumented family member. In 2016, undocumented immigrants contributed $8.8 billion to the Massachusetts economy, and they paid an estimated $184.6 million in state and local taxes.

- There is bipartisan support for driver’s license legislation across the U.S. Fourteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico already allow residents the right to apply for driver’s licenses regardless of immigration status, including our neighbors Vermont and Connecticut. New Jersey and New York are also considering legislation. Even Republican governors – in Utah, Nevada and New Mexico – have signed laws to confer driving privileges for all, regardless of immigration status.

- This bill requires minimal changes to Massachusetts law, while keeping our Commonwealth in full compliance with Real ID requirements. In March 2018, our Commonwealth instituted a two-tier system for driver’s licenses and identification cards; The REAL ID, and the Massachusetts standard license. Only the latter would be affected by this legislation, which means Massachusetts would remain in full compliance with federal REAL ID requirements.

**PARTIAL LIST OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

- 1199 SEIU
- ACLU
- ADL New England
- Agencia ALPHA
- Alliance for Business Leadership
- American Friends Service Committee
- Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
- Brazilian Women’s Group
- Brazilian Worker Center
- Brockton Interfaith Community
- Brockton Workers Alliance
- Business Innovation Center
- Catholic Charities
- Cambridge Mayor - Marc McGovern
- Cape Ann Local Action Network
- Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities
- Cape Verdean Association of Boston
- Castillo Law Offices
- Catholic Social Services of Fall River
- Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores Centro Presente
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Coalition for Social Justice
- Community Economic Development Center
- Dominican Development Center, Inc.
- Eastern Bank
- Episcopal City Mission
- Essex County Community Organization
- Executive Committee of the Mattapoissett Field First, LLC
- Gomez & Palumbo, LLC
- Open Door Immigration Services
- Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
- Greater Haverhill Indivisible
- Green-Rainbow Party
- Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
- Immigrants’ Assistance Center, Inc.
- Indivisible Mystic Valley
- INDIVISIBLE: Nantucket
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
- JP Progressives
- Justice at Work
- Justice Center of Southeast MA
- La Comunidad, Inc.
- Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts
- Lawrence Evangelical Church
- Lawrence Mayor - Dan Rivera
- Lawyers for Civil Rights
- League of Women Voters – MA
- Mass Business Immigration Coalition
- Mass Interfaith Workers Justice
- Massa Viana Law
- Massachusetts Communities Action Network
- Massachusetts Teachers Association
- Massachusetts Jobs with Justice
- Mattapoissett Democratic Committee
- Merrimack Valley Project
- MIRA Coalition
- Movimiento Cosecha
- National Association of Social Workers
- New England Justice for Our Neighbors
- North Parish of North Andover UU Racial Justice Team
- Parenting Journey
- Pioneer Valley Project
- Pioneer Valley Worker’s Center
- Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
- Progressive Massachusetts
- REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
- Rosie’s Place
- Salem No Place for Hate
- Salem Police Chief - Mary Butler
- SEIU 32BJ
- SEIU 509
- SEIU Community Action
- SEIU Massachusetts State Council
- Silverio Insurance
- Somerville Chief of Police - David Fallon
- Somerville Mayor - Joseph A. Curtatone
- Student Immigrant Movement
- The Irish International Immigrant Center
- The Welcome Project
- TPS Committee
- Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
- Unitarian-Universalist Society of Fairhaven
- United Interfaith Action of South Eastern Massachusetts
- Waltham Immigrant Solidarity Committee
- Western MA Jobs with Justice
- Western Mass Area Labor Federation

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