



## Help All Massachusetts Residents Drive Safely. Support the Safe Driving Bill!

**Problem:** In Massachusetts, many drivers are ineligible for driver's licenses 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. **There is no path to follow the law for many residents who wish to take a driver's exam, drive lawfully, and carry insurance.**

The state legislature recently increased penalties for driving without a license and related offenses. **Yet, families will continue to need to drive – to take children to school or relatives to doctor's appointments, buy groceries, and perform other tasks requiring transportation.** Many families find they must drive without a license, putting them at risk of arrest and, as a result of local immigration enforcement programs like Secure Communities, deportation and family separation. The hardships that accompany lack of access to a driver's license have even been found to harm mental health and children's cognitive development.

**Solution:** H. 3285, "An Act Relative to Safe Driving," sponsored by 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 Massachusetts residents to become trained, licensed and insured -- making our roads safer for every driver.

### The Safe Driving Bill Would:

- **Allow All Drivers to Learn our Traffic Rules** by removing immigration status as a barrier to obtaining a learner's permit and taking a driver's exam.
- **Increase Families' Mobility** by improving everyone's ability to travel to areas less accessible by foot or public transportation.
- **Support Our Economy** by allowing workers to get to their jobs and families to make larger purchases that require a vehicle.
- **Save Lives** by increasing driver knowledge of Massachusetts traffic laws and thereby reducing fatal road accidents, as well as helping first responders identify those they assist.

**Increasingly, states are eliminating immigration status as a barrier to safe driving.** Washington, New Mexico, Utah, Illinois, Oregon, Vermont, Maryland, Colorado and Connecticut allow and require – or have passed legislation that will soon allow and require – all residents of those states to become trained, licensed and insured drivers.

### For More Information:

**Sen. Jehlen's office:** Daniel Smith, [daniel.smith@masenate.gov](mailto:daniel.smith@masenate.gov) or 617-722-1578

**Rep. Farley-Bouvier's office:** Elizabeth Leibinger, [elizabeth.leibinger@mahouse.gov](mailto:elizabeth.leibinger@mahouse.gov) or 617-722-2240

**MIRA Coalition:** Shannon Erwin, State Policy Director, [serwin@miracoalition.org](mailto:serwin@miracoalition.org), 617-350-5480 x222

**Brazilian Immigrant Center:** Natalia Tracy, Executive Director, [Ed@braziliancenter.org](mailto:Ed@braziliancenter.org), 617-784-2756

**SPRINGFIELD Contact:** Bliss Requa-Trautz, Just Communities of Western Mass, 774-722-1511