

## Promote Roadway Safety Support Driving Licenses for Immigrants

Approximately 250,000 Illinois immigrant drivers cannot get a license because they are ineligible to get Social Security numbers. These uninsured drivers are involved in an estimated 76,000 accidents each year, costing \$630 million in damage claims.

Enabling Illinois immigrants without Social Security numbers to get driving licenses will improve roadway safety. These drivers will **get tested on their driving skills and on the rules of the road, and will be compelled to purchase insurance**. Offering driving licenses to immigrants would produce many other benefits:

- When all drivers are insured, the numbers of accidents involving uninsured motorists will decline, the costs of these accidents will decline, and insurance rates will fall for everyone.
- Traffic courts and jails will not be clogged with cases of drivers who want to drive legally and with insurance, but cannot.
- Police will know who they are dealing with when they make traffic stops.
- Accident victims will have their day in court with persons who otherwise never show up in court.

To guard against fraud and identity theft, Illinois rules for driver's licenses already require a written signature and documents proving **date of birth** (including a valid passport) and **of Illinois residence**.

Washington, New Mexico, and Utah currently require immigrants without Social Security numbers to get driving documents. Since **Utah** began its program in 1999, the **rate of uninsured motorists fell from 28% to under 9%**.

### Endorsers of Previous Proposals

***A broad spectrum of government, law enforcement, faith, and community leaders have supported the idea of authorizing immigrants to drive legally, including***

Former Gov. Jim Edgar  
Former Chicago Mayor  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayors of 13 Illinois cities  
Illinois State Police  
Illinois Sheriffs Association  
Fraternal Order of Police  
IL Association of Chiefs of Police  
Cook Co. Sheriff Tom Dar  
Will Co. Sheriff Paul Kaupus

23 Illinois police chiefs  
Illinois Insurance Association  
Illinois Green Industries Association  
Illinois Restaurant Association  
Illinois AFL-CIO  
SEIU, Illinois State Council  
Chicago Federation of Labor  
Francis Cardinal George Catholic Conference of IL

United Methodist Church,  
Northern IL Conference  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago  
Chicago Tribune  
Chicago Sun-Times  
State Journal-Register  
Daily Herald

For more information about this proposal,  
please contact ICIRR at 312 332-7360 or [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org).