



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

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March 4, 2013

To: Senator Maynard, Rep. Guerrero and Members of the Transportation Committee

From: Beverley Brakeman, United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 9A

Re: SB68 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM ALLOWING CERTAIN STATE RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR VEHICLE REGISTRATION REGARDLESS OF CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Good evening Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Beverley Brakeman. I am the Political Director for the United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 9A. On behalf of our 26,000 active and retired members and their families, we urge your support of SB 68.

As you know from the statistics presented here this evening, Connecticut's current laws prevent 54,000 immigrants from getting driver's licenses, even though they need to drive to do all of the things in life that you and I need to do - drive kids to activities, go to the grocery store, get to work and back, take care of family members and more.

Driving is an essential part of our lives and Connecticut is a state where people still rely heavily on cars for transportation. It is unrealistic to expect that residents of this state who work, have children, and actively participate in their communities would be able to live their lives without driving. The current policy therefore simply creates a class of drivers who are driving without licenses, testing, insurance or registration.

As a result our roads as well as other drivers and pedestrians are less safe.

As you know, drivers in Connecticut are required to have auto insurance, yet these drivers who cannot even get licenses also cannot get insurance. As with any insurance program, those who have it pay for those who don't. As a result, in Connecticut insurance costs for currently insured drivers is increased by an estimated \$20MM annually.

Additionally, Connecticut drivers must pay for their license, registration, emissions and property taxes. The state would stand to raise approximately \$2MM per year if these drivers were given the opportunity to obtain a driver's license and be legal drivers.

It seems this bill is a win-win for everyone and we urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank you.

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