

# FACT SHEET



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## Support: Driver's Licenses for All Virginians

**Problem: Over 250,000 people in Virginia,** including thirteen classes of immigrants including all who are undocumented, are barred from taking a written exam, a vision test, a road test, or easily accessing auto insurance. This puts all residents of Virginia at risk to increased harm from unsafe drivers.

### Policy solution:

Virginia should remedy this public safety issue by providing all residents with access to driver's licenses. Fourteen states have granted access to driver's licenses, permits or privilege cards to people who are undocumented. In these states, working families, the police, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and overall public safety all have realized tremendous benefits.

### Who benefits:

- **Working families:**

An estimated 272,000 people live in Virginia who are currently undocumented. More than 200,000 of them have lived in Virginia for at least five years. Our neighbors who are undocumented pay taxes, go to work, study, and worship alongside everyone else. We travel the same roads to all of these places. We should all meet the same standards of road safety, but many people do not because they are ineligible to take the test to access driving privileges.

- **Police:**

Police forces have benefited in states that allow all residents access to driver's privileges. When immigrants are allowed access to driving privileges, their fear of law enforcement decreases, which allows for greater collaboration

with local police to solve crimes. Additionally, numerous hours are saved when police do not have to process someone for driving without a license, which keeps police on the street and in the community more, increasing public safety.

- **Department of Motor Vehicles:**

As the DMV's issue more licenses, revenue would increase. Additionally, with more residents of Virginia documented, identifying residents of Virginia would be more efficient and cost effective. Also, driver's license would not grant someone the ability to vote in the United States.

- **Public Safety:**

When all residents have access to driving privileges, the fear of police and the need to flee the scene of an accident substantially decreases. As such, states that have implemented driving privileges for all residents have seen a 10% decrease in hit and run accidents.

### Make Virginia State #15!

**Fourteen states allow all residents access to driving privileges:** California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. **Virginia should be next!**

*Sources: Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center, Immigration Policy Lab, National Conference of State Legislatures, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles*