



Monday October 16, 2023

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as acknowledgement of the West Michigan Welcome Plan Collaborative's support for the Drive Safe package of bills in the Michigan Legislature.

Although nobody should drive without a license, the truth of the matter is that many people do. That is particularly true in Michigan, where driving is a virtual necessity for many residents to work, obtain basic necessities, and secure childcare. Undocumented residents were able to obtain driver's licenses and insurance for many years in Michigan and currently do so in multiple other states. The logistics are not prohibitive. Towards that end, we should be doing everything possible to ensure that everybody who can drive safely is licensed to drive. That applies to all residents regardless of immigration status. We therefore support the bills for humanitarian, public safety, and economic reasons

Humanitarian:

1. Many undocumented workers have been in this country for most of their lives. Some were brought here as children and know no other country, language or customs. They are here trying to live ordinary contributing lives, raising families and being good members of their communities. Because they cannot obtain Driver's Licenses they have to live in constant fear, when they go to pick up a child from school or go to the store for milk for a baby, that they may be arrested and then end up in the system, be deported and never go home again. Allowing people who wish to be law-abiding to be so and to take care of their families is the kind and humanitarian thing to do.

Public Safety:

2. It makes the public safer when more of our residents take driver's license safety classes and pass the required tests that are designed to promote knowledgeable and safe driving.
3. Almost all undocumented people are in this country because they were in danger in their home country, wished to join family members in this country and are seeking a better life for themselves and their loved ones. Immigrants, documented and undocumented, commit fewer crimes than the general population. They wish to be law abiding, contributing members of our community. Giving them the opportunity to drive legally with insurance promotes community safety

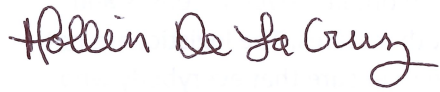
Economic:

4. When more drivers are insured, it lowers over-all costs. It also helps to prevent situations where an uninsured driver is in an accident which puts a strain on the Uninsured Drivers Compensation fund.

5. Undocumented people in Michigan do have jobs and contribute to their local economies. Allowing them to own vehicles, insure and drive them legally promotes employee reliability and access to jobs where public transportation is not readily available.

The Drive Safe package of bills will make all Michiganders— and all who share our roadways—much safer. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my support for the Drive Safe bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Hollin De La Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hollin" being the most prominent.

Hollin De La Cruz

West Michigan Welcome Plan Collaborative Coordinator

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