

# *Michigan Drivers License Campaign*



**Strangers No Longer**  
*September, 2020*

# **Michigan Drivers License Initiative**

## **What is it?**

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- **Introduced:** October of 2019 to the Michigan legislature.
  - Senate bills 631 and 632 (*Senate chair - Mike Shirkey*)
  - House bills 5192 and 5193 (*House Chair – Jack O’Malley*)
- **These bills are called the Drive SAFE plan** (short for Safety, Access, Freedom, and Economy.)

**These bills allow any person who meets age requirements and can prove Michigan residency obtain a state identification card or apply for a driver’s license, including immigrants living in Michigan without legal permission.**

*The right to get a drivers license without proof of citizenship was allowed in Michigan until it was rescinded in 2008 by the Attorney General of Michigan. The Michigan legislature then passed legislation that codified this into law.*

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## ***Why is it needed?***

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### **Who needs**

- Many have valid claims, such as those with:
  - Asylum petitions awaiting hearing dates
  - Temporary Protective Status (TPS )
  - Deferred action claims with work permits
  - DACA youth status – childhood arrivals
- *The right to get a drivers license without proof of citizenship was allowed in Michigan until it was rescinded in 2008 by the Attorney General of Michigan. The Michigan legislature then passed legislation that codified this into law.*

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## ***Why is it Important?***

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- **An Issue of Human Dignity**
  - Allowing drivers licenses helps ensure **all our neighbors** are able to take care of their families, get to work, and be part of their community.
  - ***Immigrants often wait years for their day in court.***
  - Groups who stand to benefit include DACA recipients, undocumented immigrants, and legal immigrants who haven't received their verification documents because of bureaucratic delays.

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## *Why is it Important?*

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- **Improve Public Safety**

- Ensuring that Michigan drivers have taken drivers' tests and have car insurance would be a benefit to all of us.
- According to AAA, unlicensed drivers are five times more likely to get into fatal car crashes. \*
- Increased traffic safety knowledge will decrease accidents, hit and runs, and those who flee due to lack of license / insurance.

**\**Traffic fatalities fell 23% after New Mexico passed this policy.***

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## ***Why is it Important?***

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- **Agriculture Benefits to the State of MI**  
*(supported by the MI Farm Bureau)*
  - Michigan has a \$100 billion dollar Agriculture industry in need.\*
  - The approximately 150,000 undocumented residents in Michigan play a large role in the farming, auto, service and manufacturing industries. By allowing this workforce to lawfully drive to and from work, they will be better workers by arriving at work safely, consistently and on time.
  - **15 other states offer drivers licenses to those unable to prove legal presence. Michigan is increasingly losing workers to the competition.\***

***\*Apple growers and others have reported increased shortages in available labor due to Michigan's 2008 policy change.***

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## ***Why is it Important?***

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- **Improve Community Safety**
  - License and ID holders in immigrant communities are more likely to report/cooperate with investigations of crime.
  - Reduces production/sale of fraudulent documentation.
  - A stronger drivers license database can benefit law enforcement
  - Forces those who can't open a bank account because of lack of photo ID to carry cash makes them more likely to be targets of crime.

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### ***Why is it Important?***

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- **Potential Economic Benefits to the State of Michigan**

- Without valid licenses, people are prevented from participating in economic activities that are both essential to a stable home, as well as beneficial to the Michigan economy.
- Michigan League for Public Policy predicts **\$13.5 million in revenue** over the first 3 years from new licenses and vehicle purchases.
- Auto insurance premiums could decrease. An auto insurance pool widened by relicensed and newly licensed drivers because of this legislation could help to hold down premium costs for all Michiganders.

**Pope Francis writes that  
the church has “been  
called to form  
consciences, not to  
replace them”**

Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)

