

Benefits of Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Wisconsinites

Drive the Economy!

Economic Benefits

1. **Additional state revenue.** The Department of Transportation estimates that extending eligibility for driver licenses and identification cards to undocumented individuals under the Governor's recommendations would increase revenues by \$2.9 million in the first full year of implementation.
2. **Lower insurance premiums.** Because insurance companies will have more customers and will pay fewer claims for uninsured drivers, premiums could be reduced for everyone.
3. **Economic growth.** Individuals will be able to travel to jobs where they are needed and businesses that have held off expanding due to a lack of workers will be more likely to find the employees they need. This is especially important in rural areas where immigrants fill jobs on farms, in factories and in construction.
4. **Reduced backlog for law enforcement and the courts.** Reducing the large number of cases related to driving without a license would reduce language interpreter and court costs and allow judges and law enforcement to spend their time on more serious priorities.

Public Safety Benefits

1. **Safer roads.** According to a study by AAA, unlicensed drivers are almost five times more likely to be in a fatal crash than are licensed drivers. If individuals must pass vision and driving tests, they are more likely to be safe drivers and make the roads safer for all.
2. **Increased trust and cooperation with law enforcement.** Having a valid driver's license for identification will likely increase the willingness to report crimes. It will also help first responders and health professionals more quickly identify witnesses and injured victims if there is an accident.
3. **Fewer hit and run incidents.** Licensed drivers are much less likely to leave the scene of an accident. After California passed its driver license law in 2015, the state experienced a 10% decline in hit and run accidents.
4. **Improved national security.** According to security experts, it is counterproductive to deny identification documents to immigrants because that hampers the ability of law enforcement to identify the small number who might pose a security risk. It also excludes them from the most comprehensive and reliable database of adults in the country.

Community Benefits

1. **Increased educational support and enrichment.** Parents will be more likely to meet with teachers, counselors and administrators and children will be more likely to participate in after-school enrichment activities that require transportation.
2. **Reduced school absences and stress.** Children of undocumented parents will no longer be afraid to have a parent drive them to school if they are late or miss the bus. Eliminating the stress of worrying about a parent's safety may also lessen the potential for behavioral and mental health problems.
3. **Healthier families.** Individuals will not hesitate to go to the doctor, pick up a prescription or get preventive care for themselves or their children if they have proper identification and do not have to fear being detained for unlicensed driving.
4. **Increased community involvement.** Many immigrants are already strong contributors to our community. With driver's licenses more individuals might be able to contribute their time and talent to help our community thrive.

