

RESOLUTION #3: Encouraging support for the Driving Pennsylvania Forward Coalition

RESOLVED Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania that all parishes within the Diocese prayerfully consider participation in and support of the Driving Pennsylvania Forward Coalition by doing any of the following:

1. Writing letters of support for the Coalition's Pennsylvania legislative efforts for people residing in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants;
2. Participating in committees of the Coalition;
3. Making financial donations to the efforts of the Coalition.

EXPLANATION: Until 2002, anyone residing in Pennsylvania could apply for a PA Driver's License using a Tax Identification number to establish their identity. The law changed to require only a social security number; thus, people residing in Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants are no longer able to be licensed to drive in Pennsylvania.

Driving is an essential part of basic mobility that most of us take for granted. We see no risk in getting in our cars and driving to a doctor's appointment, picking up groceries or taking our children to school. Not being able to apply for a driver's license deprives families of this important mobility.

The Driving Pennsylvania Forward Coalition is working to restore the law to allow people to apply for a Driver's license using an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) or other forms of identification, as well as to protect the privacy of all Pennsylvania licensed drivers by prohibiting the sale or transmission of licensure information to outside entities. The law was changed in 2002 and licenses were revoked in 2009.

Allowing residents of Pennsylvania who are undocumented immigrants to apply for a driver's license would lead to safer streets and highways for all of us, as well as more

insured drivers, which would reduce auto insurance costs. Expanding driver's licenses would not cost the Commonwealth; rather, it would lead to increased state revenue from both sales taxes on auto-related purchases and driver's license processing fees.

People who are undocumented immigrants are important to the fabric of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and necessary to our communities and businesses. They are human beings created in the image of God. Having a driver's license allows people to freely navigate their day-to-day activities and chores, secure employment, and provide for their families. It supports our state's economy by allowing undocumented immigrants to fill jobs for which they have the appropriate skills. Undocumented immigrants make an important contribution to our economy and could make an even greater one if allowed to apply for a driver's license.

Furthermore, this driver's license law change keeps families together. A traffic stop could mean deportation, so without the law change, families constantly live in fear.

Currently, 15 states, including Delaware, Maryland, and New York have similar laws in place.

A research report conducted by the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center in September of 2020 provides additional information about this issue and can be accessed here: <https://drivingpafoward.org/resources/>

Sponsor: The Rev. Rebecca Myers

Co Sponsors: Gerald Garber, II, Chair, Diocesan Migration Ministry Resources:
The Rev. Beth Mollard; David W. Martin