This bill would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver’s license, regardless of immigrant status, while keeping out Commonwealth in full compliance with REAL ID requirements.

- **Tested and insured drivers make the roads safer for everyone.** We want all drivers to know the rules of the road, pass the same driver’s test, and be properly registered and insured. It’s in our state’s interest to increase the number of insured drivers in order to boost our economy and make our roads safer.

- **Driver’s licenses increase public safety.** A 2017 Stanford University study found that California’s law to expand licenses to unauthorized immigrants, AB60, led to improved traffic safety by reducing the number of hit and run accidents. Hit and run accidents can lead to serious injury because of a delay in medical reporting and can leave those involved in an accident without financial recourse.

- **Driving is essential to mobility in Massachusetts, especially outside Greater Boston.** Public transit options are far too limited to enable most residents to get to work, take their children to the doctor, or buy groceries. Notably, 78% of Massachusetts workers age 16 and older get to work by car, truck or van – 71% driving alone. Even in Suffolk County, 48% of people rely on personal vehicles, 41% driving alone.

- **More drivers can have a positive effect on our state’s economy.** State revenue will increase as more residents pay for licenses and auto registrations. Fewer uninsured motorists and more drivers in the insurance pool could also lower everyone’s insurance rates. In states like New Jersey that are also considering passing this law, it’s estimated that insurance companies will bring in about $233 million in additional premiums each year and the state of New Jersey would take in $11.7 million in license fees.

- **In the Trump era, immigrant families risk being torn apart every time they drive.** In the first two years of the Trump administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests of people with no criminal convictions more than tripled. A major factor of this spike is a fivefold increase in arrests of immigrants who’ve been charged with an offense but not yet convicted. The most common charges are traffic offenses. By making driver’s licenses available to all, regardless of immigration status, we can reduce the devastating impact of Trump’s deportation agenda on Massachusetts families.

- **Immigrants who are currently barred from driving are a vital part of Massachusetts’ social and economic fabric.** An estimated 185,000 undocumented immigrants lived in Massachusetts as of 2016 – roughly one-fifth of the immigrant
population. Many live in mixed-status families; about 1 in 20 U.S. citizen children in our Commonwealth live with at least one undocumented family member. In 2016, undocumented immigrants contributed $8.8 billion to the Massachusetts economy, and they paid an estimated $184.6 million in state and local taxes.

● There is bipartisan support for driver’s license legislation across the U.S. Fourteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico already allow residents the right to apply for driver’s licenses regardless of immigration status, including our neighbors Vermont and Connecticut. New Jersey and New York are also considering legislation. Even Republican governors – in Utah, Nevada and New Mexico – have signed laws to confer driving privileges for all, regardless of immigration status.

● This bill requires minimal changes to Massachusetts law, while keeping our Commonwealth in full compliance with Real ID requirements. In March 2018, our Commonwealth instituted a two-tier system for driver’s licenses and identification cards; The REAL ID, and the Massachusetts standard license. Only the latter would be affected by this legislation, which means Massachusetts would remain in full compliance with federal REAL ID requirements.

● The Registry of Motor Vehicles is well equipped to handle an expansion in driver’s license eligibility. The RMV already deals with a wide range of driver’s license and identification card applicants, including non-citizens with varying immigration statuses and documentation and teenage drivers who aren’t at voting age yet.

PARTIAL LIST OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1199 SEIU
A CLU
ADL New England
Agencia ALPHA
Alliance for Business Leadership
American Friends Service Committee
Brazilian Women’s Group
Brazilian Worker Center
Brockton Interfaith Community
Brockton Workers Alliance
Business Innovation Center
Catholic Charities
Cambridge Mayor - Marc McGovern
Cape Ann Local Action Network
Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities
Cape Verdean Association of Boston
Castillo Law Offices
Catholic Social Services of Fall River
Centro Presente
Chelsea Collaborative
Coalition for Social Justice
Community Economic Development Center
Eastern Bank
Episcopal City Mission
Essex County Community Organization
Field First, LLC
Gomez & Palumbo, LLC
Open Door Immigration Services
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
Green-Rainbow Party
Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
Immigrants’ Assistance Center, Inc.
Indivisible Mystic Valley
INDIVISIBLE: Nantucket
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Justice at Work
Justice Center of Southeast MA
La Comunidad, Inc.
Lawrence Evangelical Church
Lawrence Mayor - Dan Rivera
Lawyers for Civil Rights
League of Women Voters - MA
Mass Interfaith Workers Justice
Massa Viana Law
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Massachusetts Jobs with Justice
Merrimack Valley Project
MIRA Coalition
National Association of Social Workers
Movimiento Cosecha
Parenting Journey
Pioneer Valley Project
Pioneer Valley Worker’s Center
Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
Progressive Massachusetts
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
Rosie’s Place
Salem Police Chief - Mary Butler
SEIU 32BJ
SEIU 509
SEIU Community Action
SEIU Massachusetts State Council
Silverio Insurance
Somerville Chief of Police - David Fallon
Somerville Mayor - Joseph A. Curtatone
Student Immigrant Movement
The Irish International Immigrant Center
The Welcome Project
TPS Committee
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
Unitarian-Universalist Society of Fairhaven
Waltham Immigrant Solidarity Committee
Western MA Jobs with Justice
Western Mass Area Labor Federation

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