



Kansas LULAC
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March 19, 2019

Good morning, my name is Madaí Rivera. I will speak in support of House Bill 2003 as a U.S. Citizen, graduate student and director of Kansas LULAC (the League of United Latin American Citizens), the oldest Hispanic/Latino-based civil rights advocacy organization in the United States of America.

This past weekend on my way to Wichita, a very kind law enforcement officer stopped me. I was uncertain as to why as I was confident that speeding was not the problem, but had nothing to worry. My car is registered, insured, and I have a driver's license. However, I remembered that while I paid my car registration last September, the sticker had been sitting in my glovebox since then, seven months. Additionally, I realized that my driver's license was at home. Again, I had no worries because I knew that the officer would be able to confirm my identity and good driving record. The kind officer gave me a verbal warning for not having my driver's license and reminded me that I needed to carry it.

I am required to:

- Know the rules of the road and laws,
- Pay driver's license application and renewal fees (I actually pay a bit more when I visit the DMV because I have both a class D-automobile and a class M-motorcycle license), and
- Properly register and insure my vehicle

I ask, what makes undocumented members of our communities exempt from fulfilling those requirements? The reality is that undocumented members of our community are driving as a necessity. However, they are not allowed to contribute to our society in a way that we, US citizens and lawful permanent residents can.

According to the national conference of state legislatures, 12 states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain a driver's license. These states benefit from the economic development and contributions these immigrants make. Why not Kansas?

A driver's license creates identification that will enhance business and commerce, access to banking and establishments that require identification. Additionally, let's say I am involved in a car accident:

- Well, I am covered financially by my insurance company and will not become a financial burden to other policy holders
- As a law-abiding citizen, I certainly do not want to paying insurance companies huge sums of money because of drivers who cannot obtain insurance
- If I become injured or die, first responders will identify me and notify my loved ones immediately. I can save a life because my driver's license reads, "Donor."

Today, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 2003 as it will:

- Increase our state's revenue and overall economic development
- Provide accurate traffic records to law enforcement and insurance companies
- Make our communities safer
- Increase the number of donors
- Offer undocumented individuals an identity

Thank you for your time and consideration on this extremely important bill as it greatly impacts our state, community and citizens.