

Chairman Barker and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I want to thank you for the consideration given to this very important and crucial proposal. I stand before you as a proponent of House bill 2003 and offer you yet another opportunity to help Kansas prosper. Granting Licenses to all individuals that can complete a driving examination improves public safety on our roads, brings a very needed boost to our economy and cultural growth to the many communities around our great state. Extending driving privileges will require individuals to take driver's tests and properly register with the state's motor vehicle agency. Licensed drivers will be more likely to obtain auto insurance, reducing the cost of accidents involving uninsured motorists and potentially lowering insurance rates for everyone. Law enforcement can better ensure public safety when they can identify motorists and access accurate traffic records. Granting driver's licenses to all people makes our communities safer. First responders and health care providers will be better able to determine the identity of victims and patients. Driver's license application fees have the potential to generate revenue for the state. Enhanced mobility of every available worker will grow Kansas businesses and stimulate the states economy. An increase in licensed drivers can boost the auto insurance and auto sales industries. More licensed and insured drivers will more likely reduce the number of accidents and lower insurance rates for all. Granting driver's licenses to all residents strengthens families. In this country, driving is essential to accessing employment to provide basic needs for families, such as food, housing, and prompt medical care. With the permission to drive safely and legally to work, school, and elsewhere, families can participate more fully in society without the constant fear of being stopped by the police and risk family separation. Driver's licenses can serve as a form of identification that allows all families to live more visibly in society with greater access to financial institutions, medical care, and other basic services. For the undocumented members of society, which I once was "a driver's license is not only a driver's license, it's proof that they exist. For a moment in time I felt like I didn't exist. I was dealt a strange card during my adolescence. When I found myself unable to formulate an explanation to my peers as to why I could not just get my license to resolve the traffic citation? why I couldn't access basic needs services that only required an unexpired identification card? Why did I not enroll in college? Why did a I remain in a job that did not pay enough when I had the potential to offer so much more to my community? Now I would like you to consider asking why not?

I will end with a humble request to you, Chairman Barker and members of the Federal and State Committee, to approve and move our great State of Kansas forward with HB2003.

Luis Estrada

Shawnee County Resident