

RESOLUTION 23-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, ENDORSING AND URGING PASSAGE OF INDIANA LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A DRIVER CARD FOR UNDOCUMENTED INDIANA RESIDENTS

- WHEREAS, the safety of all people using Indiana roads should be a priority consideration of elected officials in the State of Indiana; and
- WHEREAS, currently, a person who cannot prove lawful status in the United States is unable to obtain an operator's license in the State of Indiana, and as a result, is unable to purchase car insurance; and
- WHEREAS, as a result, many undocumented Indiana residents are likely to be driving on the streets and highways of Indiana without adequate training, certification, or insurance; and
- WHEREAS, statewide legislation providing undocumented Indiana residents with a pathway to obtain a Driver Card will encourage undocumented Indiana residents to be trained, certified, and insured; and
- WHEREAS, at the present time, similar legislation has passed in eighteen states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and
- WHEREAS, resolutions supporting legislation creating a Driver Card for undocumented Indiana residents have passed in the councils of the following Indiana cities and towns: Bremen, East Chicago, Elkhart, Evansville, Goshen, Hammond, Ligonier, Logansport, North Manchester, Plymouth, South Bend, Wabash, and Warsaw; and
- WHEREAS, a bipartisan group of 48 Indiana mayors have expressed support for such legislation in a 2022 letter to Governor Holcomb and members of the Indiana General Assembly; and
- WHEREAS, the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Insurance Institute of Indiana, and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce have all formally endorsed state Driver Card legislation; and
- WHEREAS, such legislation will improve public safety by requiring all undocumented residents desiring to drive legally to pass a written test of knowledge of driving laws and road signs, a vision test, and a driving test; and
- WHEREAS, such legislation will promote commerce by permitting undocumented residents desiring to drive legally to support Indiana businesses for their basic needs; and
- WHEREAS, by reducing the number of uninsured drivers on the roads, such legislation will help reduce insurance premiums for licensed drivers, who currently pay to cover the costs of accidents involving uninsured drivers; and
- WHEREAS, such legislation will contribute to the tax revenue of the State of Indiana; and
- WHEREAS, such legislation will improve public safety and promote positive relations with law enforcement by reducing the fear of traffic stops and by reducing any incentive to leave the scene of an accident; and

WHEREAS, such legislation will enable undocumented residents lawfully to conduct basic and vital activities such as buying groceries, going to school and work, and obtaining medical care; and

WHEREAS, a Driver Card will provide an easily identifiable and distinguishable identification that will not be valid for voter identification; and

WHEREAS, legislation to establish Driver Cards for undocumented residents was again introduced in 2023 with bipartisan support in both houses of the Indiana General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes that all Indiana drivers should be trained, certified, and insured in order to promote public safety, a growing economy, and positive relations with law enforcement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

Section 1. The Bloomington Common Council hereby endorses and urges the passage of state legislation to provide a pathway for undocumented Indiana residents to be able to obtain a Driver's Card.

Section 2. The Bloomington Common Council also hereby endorses and urges passages of state legislation to provide prerequisites to obtaining a Driver's Card such as training, certification, and insurance.

Section 3. The Bloomington Common Council urges City residents to support the passage of such legislation by making their opinions known to their state legislators.

Section 4. The Bloomington City Clerk is hereby instructed to forward this resolution, upon passage, to both Houses of the Indiana General Assembly.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2023.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution expresses the Common Council's support for passage of state legislation creating a lawful driving credential available to undocumented residents who meet appropriate prerequisites; instructs the City Clerk to send the resolution upon passage to the statehouse; and urges residents to express their own support to state legislators.