



City of Racine

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Legislative Report

File Number: Res. 0049-19

Agenda Date: 01/15/2019

File Type: Resolution

Equal Access to Driver Licenses for all Wisconsin Residents

WHEREAS, Wisconsin currently bars an estimated 32,000 residents of our state from obtaining driver licenses due to their immigration status, of whom over 12,000 are the parents of U.S. citizen children; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 alone, the driver licenses of more than 100,000 Wisconsin residents were suspended not for any driving offense but solely for failure to pay fines for minor infractions; and

WHEREAS, without a valid driver license, many people face barriers to meeting basic daily needs such as traveling to work, taking children to school, grocery shopping, going to medical appointments, and attending places of worship; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to driver licenses will likely reduce the number of uninsured drivers by at least 28,000, and result in lower insurance premiums for already-insured Wisconsin drivers, saving an estimated \$16 million per year; and

WHEREAS, restoring and expanding access to driver licenses will increase road safety by requiring more motorists to complete driver's examinations and safety screenings; and

WHEREAS, restoring and expanding access to driver licenses will provide more residents with identification for law enforcement purposes, improving public safety for all.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Racine affirms its support for equal access to driver licenses for all residents of Wisconsin, regardless of immigration status or income.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Racine calls on Governor-elect Tony Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature to include in the 2019-2021 State Budget provisions to restore access to driver licenses for all without regard to immigration status, and to end the practice of suspending driver licenses for minor non-driving offenses or because someone lacks the funds to pay unrelated fines.

Fiscal Note: N/A