



*2018 Issue Brief:*

## **Support Immigration Reform That Includes Immigrant Driving Credentials and Extension of DACA**

**POSITION:** The Minnesota Restaurant Association supports a path to successful immigration reform that includes allowing workers the opportunity to obtain limited driving credentials. The MRA is particularly supportive of the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and urges Congress to extend the program by law.

**BACKGROUND:** The MRA is a member of the Business Immigration Coalition, which supports comprehensive federal reform that recognizes the needs of our economy, protects national security, and is humane. Successful reform will modify immigration policies without creating more obstacles for workers to connect with employers and vice versa.

### **SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:**

- Driving credentials are an issue of public safety. Allowing unauthorized immigrants to prove their identity, pass a driving test, and secure automobile insurance will increase the safety of our roads by ensuring all drivers understand how to safely and properly operate a motor vehicle.
- Unlicensed drivers are also uninsured drivers. The Department of Motor Vehicles estimated that 12% of drivers were uninsured in Minnesota in 2009; this figure likely increased with the recession. Unlicensed drivers are more likely to cause accidents, and the accidents are more likely to be serious. Unlicensed drivers are also more likely to flee the scene of an accident, leaving one party's insurer to cover damages. The purchase of auto insurance would be a requirement in obtaining driving credentials, which could help stabilize or lower insurance rates for all Minnesotans.
- Support for immigrant driving credentials is growing. Twelve states, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, passed laws to require undocumented drivers to pass a driver's test. Law enforcement officials, including county attorneys, sheriffs and chiefs of police are supportive and see this issue as essential to public safety, as it would also improve the ability of local law enforcement officials to identify drivers during traffic stops and after accidents.
- The MRA is calling on Minnesota's members of Congress to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This program impacts thousand of people who are the 21st century example of seeking the promise of our economy, our culture, and our traditions. As an association of business owners, we are proud to stand in support of the Dreamers!

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<sup>1</sup>Olson, Dan. "Experts suspect more people driving without insurance". Minnesota Public Radio. June 3, 2009.

<sup>2</sup>"Unlicensed to Kill". AAA Foundation for Public Safety. Nov 2011.