

September 3, 2019



Chair Joseph A. Boncore
24 Beacon Street
Room 112
Boston, MA 02133

Chair William M. Straus
24 Beacon Street
Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Boncore and Chair Strauss,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, I urge the Joint Committee on Transportation to **favorably report House Bill 3012/Senate Bill 2061: *An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility*** out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature.

This bill creates an avenue for individuals residing in the Commonwealth to obtain licenses to legally operate motor vehicles and to ensure that drivers are properly educated, registered and insured. For many in Massachusetts, especially for those outside of Greater Boston, driving is the only means of transportation, whether it be for work, an appointment or the general necessities of life.

JCRC has long advocated for policies which promote public safety, increase economic opportunity, and maintain the dignity of all people. In this era, when our immigrant friends and neighbors face deportation, it is incumbent on us to act. The most common way for an undocumented immigrant to interface with ICE is through traffic related offenses. By making driver's licenses available regardless of immigration status, we can reduce the impact these deportations have on our communities and our families, right here in Massachusetts.

But in the end, this bill is not about special benefits, it is not about rewarding people, and it is not just about reacting to these devastating times. This is a common-sense piece of legislation which provides a clear message that we believe in the safety of our communities, the humanity of our neighbors, the right to meaningful employment, and the dignity of employment.

Respectfully,

Aaron Agulnek
Director, Government Affairs

cc: Joint Committee on Transportation