



March 1, 2019

Dear Gov. Murphy, Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin:

As leaders of labor unions representing hundreds of thousands of workers across the state of New Jersey, we urge you to support and enact legislation that would expand access to driver's licenses to all New Jerseyans regardless of immigration status.

Preventing people from taking a driver's test and applying for insurance, and ultimately obtaining a license, puts the safety – and future – of our members and their families at risk. We are all safer when everyone who is qualified to drive in New Jersey has the ability to be tested, licensed and insured. Passing legislation A-4743/ S-3229 would contribute to the economic vitality and working families in our state in the following ways:

**Economic Benefits to Working Families – and Our Economy:**

Allowing all New Jerseyans, regardless of status, to drive legally would help New Jersey's economy by increasing state revenues. Depending on the license fee set for these newly eligible applicants, New Jersey could expect anywhere between \$5.2 million and \$11.1 million in new revenue from these fees. In addition, a larger pool of New Jersey residents should be able to increase their purchasing power through increased access to better-paying jobs.

**More Insured Drivers and Lower Car Insurance Premiums**

New Jersey would see about \$209 million in new insurance payments. New Jersey has the nation's most expensive automobile insurance, with an average cost of \$1,184 that greatly exceeds the national average of \$797. A larger pool of licensed and insured motorists should help to lower costs to car insurance providers and allow for reduced car insurance premiums for drivers across the state. It would benefit New Jersey residents, and provide a boon to New Jersey's auto insurance industry.

**Boost the State's Economy and Provide Economic Benefits to the State**

Allowing all New Jerseyans, regardless of status, to drive legally would help New Jersey's economy by increasing state revenues, without having to raise taxes. Depending on the license fee set for these newly eligible applicants, New Jersey could expect anywhere between \$5.2 million and \$11.1 million in new revenue from these fees.

Allowing all residents, regardless of status, to be tested, licensed and insured would create a safer New Jersey and allow its residents to engage more in the economic life of the state. For these reasons, we urge you to support legislation to expand access to driver licenses to New Jerseyans.

Respectfully,

Kevin Brown, 32BJ SEIU Vice President and NJ District Director

Megan Chambers & Alberto Arroyo, Laundry, Distribution & Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU

Bill Granfield, President, Unite HERE Local 100

Ray Greaves, New Jersey Chairman, Amalgamated Transit Union

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Barry Kushnir, President, IFPTE Local 194, NJ Turnpike Employees' Union

Ken McNamara, President, CWA Local 1037

Wayne Richardson, President, Laborers Local 55

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