



**Testimony in support of
H.3456/S.2289: An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the
COVID-19 emergency
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation
By Jennifer Muroff, LWVMA Immigration Specialist
June 23, 2021**

Implementing driver's licenses for all regardless of immigration status ensures that every resident of the Commonwealth has access to medical services, food, and employment during a global pandemic. Such medical services include drive through testing, mass vaccination sites, and attending routine medical appointments. Driving is how people reach these services.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have already enacted driver's licenses for all. The Commonwealth should be next. Two hundred and forty organizations including those in the business community and law enforcement support the legislation.

Immigrant workers deemed essential during the pandemic provided work in the healthcare, construction, agricultural, and sanitation sectors. We expected them to arrive to work safely, causing no harm to themselves or others. Seventy-eight percent of Massachusetts workers age 16+ get to work by motor vehicle. Public transportation is limited outside of Greater Boston and not safe during the COVID emergency.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts believes that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should provide driving certificates or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test. The Commonwealth should permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates.

The LWVMA, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, believes that all levels of government have the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing, for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. The LWV stands with immigrants in solidarity and our partners in the immigrant rights community.

For all these reasons, the LWVMA supports this bill and asks that you favorably report this bill out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.