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June 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph A. Boncore
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
State House, Room 112
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable William M. Straus
House Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

Re: S. 2289/H. 3456, *An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency*

Dear Chair Boncore and Chair Straus:

In anticipation of the Joint Committee on Transportation's public hearing on Work and Family Mobility, I am writing to express my support for S. 2289/H. 3456, *An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency*, filed by Senator Brendan P. Crighton and Representatives Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Christine P. Barber. As you know, these bills would allow qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license or identification card, regardless of immigration status. I urge you to give a favorable report to this important legislation.

These bills would help ensure the health, well-being, and financial security of Massachusetts residents, especially those living outside of Greater Boston. When residents are able to legally drive, they can reliably get to work to earn a living and support their families, or they can attend school to improve their job prospects and increase their earning potential. They can also get themselves and their family members to health appointments, improving health care outcomes within their households and in their communities. With the ability to drive to the supermarket, residents can access healthier food and household necessities at more affordable prices than may be available nearer to their homes. And with a car, they can more easily participate in their children's schooling, including attending conferences and school events, which benefits their children and the broader school community. This greater mobility can meaningfully improve the lives and livelihoods of residents and their families while also benefiting our communities and our state.

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S. 2289/H. 3456 would also increase public safety. To make our roads safer, it is important that all drivers be familiar with the rules of the road, take the required driving and standard tests, and be properly registered and insured. And as many of my law enforcement colleagues have noted, we make our communities safer by establishing greater trust between law enforcement and community, and by ensuring that officers can easily and safely identify who is behind the wheel. These bills provide the specific types of legal documents that the license applicant can use to demonstrate their identity, ensuring the veracity of the application.

This legislation also acknowledges that immigrant residents who are currently prohibited from obtaining a license or identification card are vital members of our communities. They contribute to the Massachusetts economy and pay taxes. They have U.S. citizen children who attend our schools and, if their family incomes dip below a certain level, become entitled to access public services and benefits for which they are eligible. They are our neighbors and fellow community members. This legislation would remove a barrier that harms them, their families, and our state.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Rebello-Pradas, Chief of the Policy and Government Relations Division at (617) 963-2057.

Very truly yours,



Maura Healey