
Committee Meeting

OF

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

The following bill will be considered:

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 4425

“Establishes driver’s license for residents who cannot prove lawful presence in US”

LOCATION: Committee Room 11
State House Annex
Trenton, New Jersey

DATE: November 16, 2015
1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Chair
Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones
Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin
Assemblyman David C. Russo
Assemblywoman Holly T. Schepisi



ALSO PRESENT:

Amanda D. Holland
Kristin Brunner Santos
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aides

Francisco Maldonado
Assembly Majority
Committee Aide

Kevin Logan
Assembly Republican
Committee Aide

Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 4425

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman **ANNETTE QUIJANO**

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman **REED GUSCIORA**

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman **RAJ MUKHERJI**

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman **GARY S. SCHAER**

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman **GORDON M. JOHNSON**

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman **VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen **Spencer, Muoio, Jasey and Pinkin**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the "New Jersey Safe and Responsible Driver Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee.



1 AN ACT concerning driver's licenses, supplementing chapter 3 of
2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and amending P.L.1997, c.151.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) This act shall be known and may be cited as
8 the "New Jersey Safe and Responsible Driver Act."

9

10 2. (New section) a. The chief administrator shall issue a
11 driver's license to a person who satisfies the requirements for the
12 issuance of a basic driver's license but cannot provide proof of
13 lawful presence in the United States.

14 b. Each applicant for a driver's license pursuant to the
15 provisions of this act shall be required to submit to the commission,
16 upon request, proof of identity, date of birth, and residence in the
17 State of New Jersey. If the applicant has been issued a social
18 security number, the applicant shall provide it to the commission.

19 The chief administrator shall adopt, pursuant to the
20 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), regulations establishing the documentation necessary to prove
22 an applicant's identity, date of birth, and residence in this State.
23 The documents may include, but not be limited to, an original or
24 certified copy of the following documents or combination of
25 documents, as determined by the chief administrator:

26 (1) a valid, unexpired consular identification document issued
27 by a consulate from the applicant's country of citizenship; a valid,
28 unexpired passport from the applicant's country of citizenship; a
29 driver's license or identification card issued by another state or a
30 municipality; a United States military identification document; a
31 foreign driver's license; a foreign federal electoral photo card; a
32 document issued by the Department of Homeland Security or a
33 court; a student identification document; a marriage license or
34 divorce certificate; or other proof of identity, as designated by the
35 chief administrator. The documents may be expired if they are
36 presented with other acceptable proof of identity;

37 (2) an original birth certificate, adoption records, an official
38 school or college transcript that includes the applicant's date of
39 birth, a foreign school record that includes a photograph of the
40 applicant at the age the record was issued, or other proof of age, as
41 designated by the chief administrator;

42 (3) a home utility bill, lease or rental agreement, a property tax
43 bill or statement issued within the previous 12 months, an income
44 tax return, a deed or title to real property, or other proof of New
45 Jersey residence, as designated by the chief administrator.

46 Applicants who are unable to provide the documents listed in
47 paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, but who are able to

1 provide alternative documents shall be subject to a secondary
2 review to determine whether the applicant has presented sufficient
3 information to verify his identity, age, and residence in this State.

4 If a document listed under paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection
5 is in a language other than English, the chief administrator may
6 require the applicant to submit a certified translation of the
7 document into English if a bilingual employee of the New Jersey
8 Motor Vehicle Commission is not able to read and interpret the
9 document.

10 c. A person applying for a driver's license under the provisions
11 of this act is required to pay all fees applicable for the issuance of a
12 basic driver's license. The commission may charge the applicant an
13 additional fee, not to exceed \$50 per driver's license, to offset the
14 administrative costs associated with the production and distribution
15 of driver's licenses issued pursuant to this act. This administrative
16 fee may be assessed by the commission only until the first day of
17 the 36th month following the effective date of this act, at which
18 time the additional fee shall expire and a driver's license issued
19 under this act shall be subject to the same fees applicable to the
20 issuance of a basic driver's license.

21 d. Any person applying for a driver's license under this act who
22 provides false documentation or who knowingly makes a false
23 statement on an application for the purpose of obtaining a driver's
24 license shall be guilty of an offense pursuant to N.J.S.2C:21-4.

25

26 3. (New section) a. A driver's license issued under this act
27 shall be valid for four years from the date of issuance. While the
28 license is valid, the holder shall have the same privileges and shall
29 be bound by the same legal responsibilities with respect to the
30 operation of a motor vehicle as the holder of a basic driver's license
31 issued pursuant to this chapter.

32 b. It shall be an unlawful discrimination violation for any person
33 to discriminate, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of
34 subsection f. of section 11 of P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-12), against
35 an individual based upon the fact that the individual holds or
36 presents a driver's license issued under this act.

37 c. Any public official who discriminates against an individual
38 who holds or presents a driver's license issued under this act shall
39 be guilty of a crime of official deprivation of civil rights pursuant to
40 section 2 of P.L.2003, c.31 (C.2C:30-6).

41 d. No underwriting rule shall operate in such a manner as to
42 assign a risk to a rating plan, pursuant to the provisions of section
43 15 of P.L.1997, c.151 (C.17:29A-46.2), on the basis of an insured
44 holding a driver's license issued under this act.

45

46 4. (New section) a. The chief administrator shall adopt,
47 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410

1 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), regulations concerning the form and design of
2 the driver's license issued pursuant to this act and any other
3 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this act.
4 The regulations shall require that each driver's license issued
5 pursuant to this act include a digitized picture of the person to
6 whom the card was issued and meet the applicable requirements for
7 construction of driver's licenses in section 3 of P.L.1979, c.261
8 (C.39:3-10h). The regulations also shall require that the driver's
9 license issued pursuant to this act contain the statement "Federal
10 Limits Apply" on the front of the driver's license in the smallest
11 font size contained on the license. In addition, the back of the
12 driver's license shall contain the statement "This card is not
13 acceptable for official federal purposes. This license is issued only
14 as a license to drive a motor vehicle. It does not establish eligibility
15 for employment, voter registration, or public benefits."

16 b. Any personal information collected by the commission from
17 an applicant for a driver's license pursuant to the provisions of this
18 act is subject to the same disclosure restrictions that apply to
19 personal information collected from applicants for driver's licenses.
20 In addition, this information shall not be considered a public record
21 and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.188
22 (C.39:2-3.4), shall not be disclosed to any federal, State, or local
23 governmental entity without probable cause or a valid warrant.

24 c. A driver's license issued pursuant to this act shall not be
25 considered evidence of an individual's citizenship or immigration
26 status and shall not be used as a basis for an investigation, arrest,
27 citation, or detention.

28 d. On the first day of the 48th month following the effective date
29 of this act, the chief administrator shall submit to the Governor and the
30 Legislature a report evaluating the effectiveness of the issuance of the
31 driver's licenses issued pursuant to this act. The report shall provide
32 data on the number of convictions for violations of subsections b. and
33 c. of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
34 as this bill) and subsection d. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
35 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Information pertaining
36 to the identity of any specific individual shall not be provided in the
37 report.

38

39 5. (New section) The chief administrator shall establish and
40 conduct a public education campaign regarding the availability of
41 driver's licenses issued pursuant to this act and the requirements for
42 obtaining such a license.

43

44 6. Section 15 of P.L.1997, c.151 (C.17:29A-46.2) is amended to
45 read as follows:

46 15. a. Insurers shall put in writing all underwriting rules
47 applicable to each rate level utilized pursuant to section 14 of

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 4425

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 4425.

The substitute establishes the "New Jersey Safe and Responsible Driver Act." This substitute establishes driver's licenses for New Jersey residents who cannot prove lawful presence in the United States.

Specifically, under the provisions of this substitute, the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) is required to issue a driver's license to a person who satisfies the requirements for the issuance of a basic driver's license but cannot prove lawful presence in the United States.

Under the substitute, each applicant is required to submit to the MVC proof of identity, date of birth, and residency in this State. The substitute specifies certain documents that the chief administrator may accept, in addition to any other documents determined to be appropriate by the chief administrator. The substitute provides that applicants who are unable to provide the listed documents, but who are able to provide alternative documents, are to be subject to a secondary review to determine whether the applicant has presented sufficient verification.

In addition, under the substitute, if a document provided by an applicant is in a language other than English, the chief administrator may require the applicant to submit a certified translation of the document into English if a bilingual employee of the MVC is not able to read and interpret the document.

A person applying for this driver's license is required to pay all fees applicable to the issuance of a basic driver's license and the commission may charge an additional fee, not to exceed \$50 per driver's license, to offset administrative costs associated with the production and distribution of the driver's license. This additional fee is to expire 36 months after the effective date of the substitute. Under the substitute, the driver's license is valid for four years.

The substitute provides that the commission is required to adopt regulations concerning the form and design of the driver's license,



ANNETTE QUIJANO
Chairwoman

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COMMITTEE NOTICE

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

FROM: ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANNETTE QUIJANO, CHAIRWOMAN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The public may address comments and questions to Amanda D. Holland or Kristin Brunner Santos, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Michelle L. McArthur, Secretary, at (609)847-3870, fax (609)777-2715, or e-mail: OLSAideAHS@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee will meet on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM in Committee Room 11, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey.

The following bill will be considered:

A-4425 Quijano/Gusciora/ Mukherji	Establishes driver's license for residents who cannot prove lawful presence in US.
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Issued 11/10/15

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For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-292-4840.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Karla Estrada Private Citizen	4
Maria Pereira Representing Make the Road New Jersey	5
Erika Nava Policy Analyst New Jersey Policy Perspective	8
Jeffrey S. Hastings Private Citizen	14
Michele Talamo Representing Citizens for Positive Change	16
John T. Tomicki Executive Director League of American Families	18
Ari Rosmarin Director Public Policy American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey	21
Assemblyman Raj Mukherji District 33	23
Lizzette Delgado-Polanco Executive Director New Jersey State Council Service Employees International Union	25
Deacon Patrick R. Brannigan Executive Director New Jersey Catholic Conference of Bishops	26

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Barbara Sachau Private Citizen	33
Ron Bass Private Citizen	35
Pat DeFilippis Private Citizen	36
Rolando Bobadilla District 1 Freeholder Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders	37
Reverend Sara E. Lilja Director Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey	39
Thomas Sheppard Freeholder Cumberland County	40
Kevin Brown State Director 32BJ, and Vice President Service Employees International Union	43
Rodolfo Rodriguez Deputy Mayor Township of West Orange, and President The West Orange Hispanic Foundation	46
Reverend Miguel A. Hernandez Priest-in-Charge Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	48

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Claudia Mejia Sydenstricker Representing Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, Inc.	49
Blanca R. Soto Representing Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, Inc.	50
Alejandra Ruiz Medina Private Citizen	53
Nuno Pereira Representing Make the Road New Jersey	55
Leticia Fraga Nadler Chair The Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund	56
Carlos Cruz Representing Association for Development and Promotion of the Hispanic Community (ADEPCOH)	59
Alba Cardenas Representing Latinos Unidos en Orange, New Jersey	60
Unidentified Private Citizen	61
Eliud Gautier Private Citizen	61
Gerson Gramajo Private Citizen	64
Norma Paz Private Citizen	66

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
APPENDIX:	
Testimony submitted by Erika Nava	1x
Testimony submitted by Ari Rosmarin	3x
Testimony submitted by Deacon Patrick R. Brannigan	7x
Testimony submitted by Reverend Sara E. Lilja	9x
Testimony submitted by Claudia Mejia Sydenstricker	11x
Testimony submitted by Leticia Fraga-Nadler	13x
Testimony submitted by Jean Public Private Citizen	15x
Testimony submitted by Reverend Timothy Graff Director Office of Human Concerns Archdiocese of Newark	16x

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

APPENDIX (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Testimony submitted by Ezzio A. Bustamante President Peruvians for Progress, Inc.	17x
Testimony submitted by George H. White Executive Director New Jersey Press Association	18x
pnf: 1-80	

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANNETTE QUIJANO (Chair): Good afternoon, and welcome to the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee.

I call the meeting to order.

Please turn off your cell phones, or put them on vibrate.

We will start with the Pledge of Allegiance. (all recite pledge)

I would ask you to continue standing; we will take a moment of silence to reflect on the tragedies that occurred in Beirut and France last week.

(moment of silence)

Thank you.

We started by taking a moment of silence to reflect on the tragedies that occurred in Beirut and France last week. There is no possible justification for such heinous acts of terroristic violence. It falls to the Federal government to create and enforce immigration laws and policies. I had hoped that the efforts of the Gang of Eight, in 2013, would have led to comprehensive immigration reform. Sadly, that is not the case.

New Jersey is home to over a half-a-million undocumented immigrants. That makes up 8 percent of our labor force. We live and work alongside them, and they drive on our highways and roadways every day without a license, without training, without insurance. Unlicensed drivers are five times more likely to be in a fatal car accident, and 10 times more likely to flee the scene of an accident.

We are lucky enough to live in a place that attracts people looking to make a better life for themselves and their families. These families come here to work and they drive to get there. They drive their

children to our local schools, and they drive to their shopping at our local businesses.

None of these things are going to change; the State needs to make our roadways safer. We need to require these individuals to take drivers' tests and register their vehicles with Motor Vehicles. Licensed drivers know the rules of the road and have an understanding of traffic regulations. Licensed drivers would be more likely to obtain auto insurance, reduce the cost of accidents involving uninsured motorists, and potentially lower insurance rates for everyone.

This is a question of security on our highways and roadways -- making all drivers obtain licenses will help our state maintain accurate records. By including the names and addresses of all our state residents it will also help our economy. Drivers' license application fees, as well as registration fees, will generate revenue for the State. Enhanced mobility for immigrant workers will grow our local businesses and stimulate our economy. This bill will require undocumented New Jersey residents to be tested, trained, licensed, insured, and accountable for their driving records.

This limited license will not be given away by the State; it must be earned, just like everyone else's licenses. This bill will not grant legal status to undocumented persons residing in the state. It will not allow license holders to apply for any State or Federal programs, and it will not authorize license holders to work. This is not a Social Security card, and it does not make individuals United States citizens.

All this legislation will do is help people come out of the shadows, making all of us safer. Public safety is why we're here today. It's an ongoing mission of this Committee which, in the coming months, will

continue to examine the ways in which this State is working to ensure the continued safety of all residents.

With that, we're going to begin testimony on this bill. Because of the number of people here today, we will impose a strict three-minute limit on all testimony, with additional time allowed for use of interpreters, when necessary. Please limit your testimony to the contents of this bill, and not to broader, related issues. And please adhere to the usual rules of decorum of this Legislature.

Thank you.

Amanda, could you do a roll call, please?

MS. HOLLAND (Committee Aide): Sure.

Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Present.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Egan Jones.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Here.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Present.

MS. HOLLAND: We have a quorum.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

What I will be doing is asking individuals to come up in a panel of three. We have a timer set up, and Kristin will have -- she will start you off at three minutes.

The following people, if you could please come up: Karla Estrada, Maria Pereira, and Erika Nava. Is she in the room?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: (Indiscernible)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: All right; can you get her?

KARLA ESTRADA: Hello. My name is Karla, and I am one of the many students who understands what it's like not to have a driver's license.

When I had started Camden County College, I actually had to take the New Jersey transportation system because my parents couldn't take me to school. They were afraid that because they did not know the area too well, that they would be stopped by the police -- and that means, for them, because of their immigration status, that they would actually be deported. So because of that fear, they couldn't help me get to school.

So during that time, I didn't have a license either, so that meant that I would have to take a six-hour bus ride to get to my college when, if I did have a license, it would have just taken me 30 minutes to get to class and 30 minutes back home. Together, in a week, I would spend up to 24 hours on the bus instead of doing something more productive, like going to my job and earning more hours so I can help pay for my college. Because, at the time, I also had -- my immigration status wasn't good so I couldn't actually pay for my college, or have any financial aid that would help it.

So by going to my job with more hours that the bus had taken away from me, I would have been able to gain more hours and gain more money so I could pay for my college and really help out my family. Because, at the time, I was also helping out my family in my country. And it was my aunt, who is a single mother; and I send money to her because she can't, herself, provide all that money, because it's hard for her to get a

job. So for me to send money over there -- she uses it to pay for my little cousin's milk; she uses it to pay for things that he'll need in order for him to go to school as well. So all of this is dependent on me as well.

So if I had a driver's license, it would have been a lot easier for me to gain more hours so I could provide financially for my schooling and for my aunt.

Now, for me, I believe that if the people are willing to learn how to drive and learn the laws that govern our roads, and are really able to take the driver's test and pass it, then they should be allowed to obtain a driver's license so that they could have an opportunity to seek things that they need, for instance, a new job; so they can take their children to school, so they actually have an opportunity for themselves to gain an education like I was able to have -- because of the struggles of me having to go on the bus every single morning.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, thank you very much.

MARIA PEREIRA: Good morning. My name is Maria Pereira, a member of Make the Road New Jersey and a resident of Hillside, New Jersey.

I have lived in the United States for 24 years, and I am very thankful to this country because, here, I got married and I had my two sons. But above all else, I am thankful because this is a country with generous and fair laws.

My husband and I are immigrants; and for years, we have had high hopes for immigration reform that has not yet come, and for the reason (indiscernible) which was blocked by the courts.

In all of these issues of immigration, our two leaders are on the national level, in this moment, with immigrants asking our representatives in New Jersey for a driver's license. The driver's licenses are vital to us; and for not having one, we have had to suffer for many years. It was always on fear to be found out, and it has cost us anxious mornings, fearful days, and sleepless nights. And for us, our nightmares came true as my husband was arrested by the police when he was coming back from work. We had to pay for a lawyer to represent us, along with fines to the court -- all while in fear of the uncertainty of being deported.

My sons were also affected when they were growing up, because, as kids, they could see what was going on. Many times I would see them crying when they thought about what would happen to them if we got deported.

But one day my older son, only 10 years old, told me not to worry because he swore to protect his younger brother and make sure he would do all that was possible for us to be back together.

They would also feel left out because we did not have a car to take them to the places that influenced their academic and social development -- after school activities, science fairs, leadership workshops, computer classes, or even a friend's birthday party. My children missed out on so much, and my husband and I suffered as we had to watch them become sad when we could not take them.

We were impacted economically because the man (indiscernible) my husband found out that he did not have a license. They cut his pay and he was forced to leave and find a new job.

I remember that when my sons were in high school, they would ask us to buy them better books or better programs so they could keep up with the other kids in class. But we had to choose between paying the bills and food, or their education.

Now that my sons are in college and are American citizens, they have their own driver's licenses. However we, as their parents, remain in the same situation and are not able to fully support them financially to complete their education.

For all this, your support on this matter is crucial. To have a driver's license is not a reward to an undocumented immigrant. It is respect, and dignity, and integrity towards a human being, and a responsible step forward for immigrants. We ask for your support to obtain a driver's license. We, the immigrants, are united and we will continue to move united in this movement.

We ask you to hear our voices -- you, the Legislators, who have the power to support this necessity, and to find tranquility in the lives of parents and children as a family.

Thank you. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Any questions?

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: You said that you have been here for 24 years.

MS. PEREIRA: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: And have you tried to become a legal resident, a citizen?

MS. PEREIRA: We have our hopes in the immigration reform. We are working for (indiscernible).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: But have you tried through the regular processes? I don't want to put you on the spot, but I just kind of wondered what the-- In the 24 years that you have been trying -- you've been trying, you were not successful, or--

MS. PEREIRA: Yes. Unfortunately, my husband and I do not qualify for the requirements for a kind of immigration relief. That is so sad for us, and for my kids.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: But that would be if it was processed. But to go through the Federal government to be on the list to be registered to begin the process to become a citizen-- In the 24 years have you gone through those channels?

MS. PEREIRA: Right now, we were trying the last year. But unfortunately, we met a lawyer who was not a professional in this process. Then we had to stop that. Thus, again, it is so sad for my family.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Erika.

ERIKA NAVA: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Would you introduce yourself, and what organization you're with?

MS. NAVA: I thank the Chair and members of the Committee for acting on this important issue.

My name is Erika Nava, and I'm a Policy Analyst with New Jersey Policy Perspective.

When it comes to allowing all New Jerseyans, regardless of status, to drive legally, the facts from our research are clear. This commonsense policy will make New Jersey safer, improve cooperation with law enforcement, help this economy, and increase the well-being of many families.

New Jersey is home to about 525,000 undocumented residents from around the world, representing about 6 percent of the state's population. These folks are your neighbors; their children are your kids' classmates; most of them work, and pay over a half-a-billion dollars each year in State and local taxes. We estimate that up to 460,000 of these New Jerseyans expect to benefit from this policy.

But it's not just undocumented residents who will benefit. This legislation could also help veterans who have trouble proving their status; the homeless; and other vulnerable populations. These people are more likely than you or me to lack many specific documents currently required under the six-point system.

And this bill is by no means some radical, off-the-wall proposal; it is simply pragmatic. That is why 12 other states and Washington D.C. have already enacted similar policies to ensure that all drivers, regardless of status, are trained, tested, licensed, insured, and accountable for their driving performance.

The evidence from states that adopted this policy years ago suggest that it will make the state's roadways safer. And local economies (*sic*) will be safer, thanks to the increased trust between immigrant residents and law enforcement.

This policy will also allow New Jerseyans to fully participate in their local economy and provide a modest boost to the state's economy from a variety of taxes and fees. With this policy, parents will be able to drive their children to school or doctor's appointments without breaking the law. It will also mean fewer families will be broken up through deportation or jail time, helping ease the anxiety that can damage a child's development.

Finally, I want to make it clear that this policy will not grant anyone legal status -- only the Federal government has the power to make that change; or allow license holders to apply for State and Federal programs like New Jersey Family Care or welfare. And contrary to the claim that some opponents make, no holder of the proposed license could board an airplane, as this license will have Federal limits applied printed on the front of the card.

The bottom line is clear. This policy will help people who are currently unable to get a license, but it will also help all of us. We all could benefit from sharing the road with more drivers who are licensed and insured.

Thank you for your time. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I would ask that you refrain from clapping, because we have to keep on going.

Any questions?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I do.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Go ahead, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: You just indicated that, with this license, somebody could not get on an airplane. It's my

understanding that, in the finest, smallest font possible -- it's merely on the license saying that, "Federal restrictions may apply." Can you describe in detail how that would preclude anybody from being able to get on an airplane in New Jersey?

MS. NAVA: Yes, well, under the Real ID Act, the reason why "Federal limits apply" has to be on this type of license is because, under the Real ID Act -- which requires states to be compliant with the Real ID Act -- they have to be different in appearance. So a regular license doesn't have "Federal limits apply," right? So when people check-- For example, when you go board a plane, they check your license. Having "Federal limits apply" would signal that this is not a normal license.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: But isn't the proposed legislation to have that in the smallest possible, non-obtrusive way where you actually have to search for it?

MS. NAVA: No. Well, the state of California has a similar license, and it has been approved by the Department of Homeland Security -- with that type of font. So it has already gone through the process of being vetted by the Federal government, and they approved that design.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Do we have anybody testifying today from TSA, or from anybody as to whether or not that would be accurate? Because that is one of my biggest grave concerns, particularly with what's going on in the world right now -- that we're providing a document that is-- With the driver's license, you can do far more than just drive. You can purchase a firearm in pretty much every state. You can board any sort of airplane.

MS. NAVA: But that's with a normal--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: You can open bank accounts. You can do a whole, multiple of things, merely--

MS. NAVA: But that's with a normal, regular license -- not a limited license, which is the one they're -- Assemblywoman Quijano is proposing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right. But it's my understanding that the look of this license, other than, maybe, in the smallest font possible -- that little line--

MS. NAVA: It will be-- Well, based on the Real ID Act, it's required for it to be on the front, on the face of the card.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I can answer the question.

The information would be in the same place -- I sent you a picture over there (indicates) -- the same place where the temporary immigration status would go on the New Jersey license; right in that white box (indicates). If you take out your regular driver's license, you will see.

Also, on the back of the card -- as California has -- it will say, "This card is not acceptable for official Federal purposes. This license is issued only as a license to drive a motor vehicle. It does not establish eligibility for employment, voter registration, or public benefits." That will go on the back, and you'll see we do have an amendment.

Here, show this to the Assemblywoman. (indicates)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: With some of the other states that may have this, there are certain practical concerns that I think everybody has in this current climate. Would your organization be amenable to certain things that other states have done, like mandating fingerprints of any person applying for this?

MS. NAVA: Yes. Currently, Utah and Vermont do that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: As does Delaware. Delaware mandates fingerprinting every applicant. Having proof of residency--

MS. NAVA: Oh, also a proof of residency is also in this bill. They have to prove their age, where they live here in New Jersey--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Yes, but you could live here a week. You could move to New Jersey-- You indicated you have been here for 25 years (*sic*). Under the current bill, you could be in New Jersey for two months; you could be in New Jersey for a week.

MS. NAVA: So the regular license holders could also do that already.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right. But we're not talking about regular license holders. I mean, I have to prove who I am in order to get a license.

So these are just some of the things whereby-- You know, there's a big difference between the woman sitting next to you who has been here for 25 years, who can't drive her kids to school; and somebody who comes to New Jersey because we've passed this legislation and goes, "Wow, it's cool. I can now go to New Jersey and get a driver's license that I can't get anywhere else around here." So those are some of the things that I think we have to take a long, hard look at.

MS. NAVA: Yes, so currently our neighbor states -- Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., Vermont -- use this license; have a similar license. So it's less likely that they will come to New Jersey, since other states around us already have such policies.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right. But in those states -- particularly Delaware, which was mentioned -- you have to prove residency for a minimum of several years; you need to be fingerprinted; you need to do a whole multitude of things that are not currently contemplated in New Jersey.

MS. NAVA: Well, we haven't-- There is no evidence between the getting -- being fingerprinted will make things safer or will make you a better driver.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. We can respectfully disagree on that one.

MS. NAVA: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, any more? (no response)

Thank you.

The next panel: John Tomicki, League of American Families (applause); Michele Talamo -- and I apologize if I say your name wrong, you can correct it when you come up to speak -- Citizens for Positive Change; and Jeffrey Hastings. Opposed.

Okay, you can decide among the three of you who will go first. Just start off by hitting the button; it will turn red, and you can start by saying your name and what group you're from, okay?

Thank you.

J E F F R E Y S. H A S T I N G S: I am Jeffrey Hastings; I'm just representing myself and other concerned New Jersey taxpayers

We're opposed to this legislation. We don't think it's going to have the safety benefit that's claimed. We think, on the contrary, it could

potentially lead to people who have nefarious intentions -- getting licenses and making them easier to move around. Because the undocumented immigrants are not vetted the same way that legal immigrants are. There are no background checks or face-to-face interviews. So we think that the security aspects of the bill are questionable.

We also think that it's kind of an affront to the rule of law to basically grant a license -- which is really a privilege, and not a right -- and we're just opposed to legislation that basically undermines the rule of law.

Actually, there is a Federal law, Title 8, U.S.C. 1324, that says that -- basically, it makes it an offense for any person "knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or attempts to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection, such alien in any place, including any building or any means of transportation." So basically, anybody who votes for this legislation would be in violation of that particular Federal law.

And from the practical side, I would say that it just creates a magnet for more people to come to New Jersey undocumented from other states, and could increase the burden on our education, health care, and other social services. And we just think that it's going to increase costs to the taxpayers. And basically it's something that most of the citizens would probably not be in favor of, and it will encourage more New Jersey taxpayers to leave the state and go to other states where there is no such legislation.

And I don't think that some of the claimed benefits of safety are relevant, because there's no guarantee that the people who get the

licenses are actually going to go out and buy insurance. And the majority of the accidents are unlicensed drivers anyway; and there's no guarantee that people will come forward just because they have licenses.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

M I C H E L E T A L A M O: Hi. My name is Michele Talamo; I'm from Bergen County. I represent Citizens for Positive Change. I am also an HR professional. I have my BHR and my AHRCP.

So when one considers this bill, this is an oversimplification of the issue and the rationale for granting driver's licenses.

We must remember that the following seeks not to focus on that issue but, moreover, the actual ramifications of such a decision. There are many issues at hand which compel one to be resistant to the prospect of granting an individual, who does not reside legally in the United States, the privilege of a New Jersey driver's license --- which, in fact, is the identification proof in so many circumstances.

Subsequent to 9/11, New Jersey instituted an identification system for New Jersey licenses in order to know that the person presenting themselves is, in fact, the person applying for a license. An application of a driver's license test had to satisfy six points of identification. We were guaranteed this system was put in place to protect all of New Jersey. Granting driver's licenses to those who are not going to be able to prove who they are dismantles the entire system we were promised would protect us. And this comes on the heel of what we've seen in Paris this weekend.

When we talk about insurance, I definitely agree. And let's not forget that the Federal law is such that you must be a citizen to have

insurance -- and they do not meet that criteria. So that point, which is often cited by advocates for licenses for illegals, is moot because they will not secure it, and nothing will be accomplished by giving those licenses. So that issue, I feel, is off the table and has no real relevance.

We must also recognize that although the bill calls for the license not to be used for Federal regulations and Federal reasons, are we so confident that people who are actually viewing the license are going to know the difference? Being in HR, let me tell you: Not everybody understands the difference; not everybody can recognize the difference -- even if it's in type, even if it's in red, if it's underlined -- it doesn't always help.

When you do that -- and if people are able to qualify in some way, or some manner, then we have to ask: Can someone get two driver's licenses? What actually protects us from people having multiple licenses and producing another one when they have a DUI or too many points? So that, in effect, doesn't protect the citizens of New Jersey. All people in New Jersey -- it does not protect.

What happens to criminals? What if they decide to go off the grid, represent themselves to be an illegal alien, and then they go on to get a license under that pretense? So do we want to know whether a pedophile is off the grid, or if the pedophile has a different name, or if they have created a different identity? I don't know about the vetting, but I don't have confidence in it.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE: (Indiscernible)
(groans and shouting)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you -- I really need you to keep quiet when someone else is speaking. You may agree or not agree with an individual, but I need to keep decorum in the room.

MS. TALAMO: I'm not suggesting these people in the room are; I'm just saying other people will use it to their advantage.

And in fact, in employment, when we had the I-9s and the IRCA -- the Immigration Reform and Control Act, November 6, 1986 -- that's why we have the I-9, and that was put in place.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

J O H N T. T O M I C K I: Good afternoon, Madam Chairman. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to testify.

My name is John Tomicki, Executive Director of the League of American Families.

I liked your opening statement, which was -- it was an immigration issue. You had hoped that the law had been changed.

We're very mindful -- because I come from a biblical background -- that Deuteronomy tells us that we are to love the stranger because, at one time, those who arrived in Egypt were strangers. But the immigration issue overshadows this; you can't approach this piecemeal. We wish there was a change, and I think that that's on the way, on the Federal level. So the individuals -- and I use the term *undocumented visitors* -- who are here will be able to come out, and register, and be able to move down the path with proper vetting when it comes to any public record or public document.

Now, you say in your legislation-- And I believe the timing of this legislation is ill advised. You have a situation -- whether I deal with the vetting issue on Mohamed Atta, who did have a driver's license -- other states are beginning to tighten their regulations regarding giving such a document.

Now, as was just pointed out, you're going to have a Federal conflict of laws. If you have a document like this -- even though it says it can't be used for identification -- in effect, if the Federal government might be looking for an individual who has violated some law, but now has another assumed name, you have opened up and broken the agreement that was made, with the six points initially, to try to get a better understanding of who's applying for a license -- are they who they say they are, do they live where they say they live.

Your legislation is also, in my opinion, flawed at this particular point in time -- where you, in effect, allow for a secondary review; or you can allow somebody to come in with a license from another state. We now know that there are fraudulent documents that exist relative to individuals who are trying to come into this country or who are already in this country.

So I think the timing is wrong. I think the statute is fatally flawed, might be constitutionally -- we're not certain yet, we're still reviewing it -- because of the conflict with Federal laws.

When I started out, I talked in terms of walking with a stranger. I am delighted to be associated with the Zarephath Health Center. There is legislation pending in this state which would help the undocumented visitor. We take people in the Zarephath Health Center; we don't know what your name is, we don't care what your name is. We keep

a paper record, because people who are undocumented visitors -- they have medical needs and they should be allowed to get treatment. We take care of them. We don't look into who they are or where they come from because we do love our neighbor.

But this goes beyond that issue. It is now granting an ability for an individual to be able to drive, get identification -- which may be used for other purposes. We think it's unwise as to timing. We think the drafting is wrong; and also you have a clause in the legislation that says that if a public official--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you to wrap it up.

MR. TOMICKI: I'll finish in 30 seconds, Madam Chairman.

--that if a public official discriminates in some fashion, it doesn't make it clear in the statute, for someone who holds such a document, that they will be found in violation of the State law of discrimination. That's poorly drafted; and I think I understand what the intent is.

So I really would ask, at this particular time, the legislation should be held. We should work with our Federal legislators, and I think there is much more now that wants to be done with the undocumented visitor, and also to tighten the vetting process. You're opening up a dangerous way for lack of proper vetting applicants.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you for your testimony.

Next panel -- Ari Rosmarin, ACLU; Lizzette Delgado-Polanco, SEIU State Council; Pat Brannigan, NJCCOB.

Assemblyman Mukherji, could you please join this panel?

Thank you.

A R I R O S M A R I N: Good afternoon, Committee members. Thank you, Chairwoman Quijano and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify today in support of A-4425.

My name is Ari Rosmarin; I'm the Public Policy Director at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. On behalf of our 20,000 members, and donors, and supporters across the state, I'm excited to be here to support this important Civil Rights legislation.

It's a unique opportunity to be able to talk to you about a bill that is not just a Civil Rights bill -- and at its core, that's what it is -- but also a public safety bill. These are unique moments where we can see legislation and good public policy that both strengthens people's rights in New Jersey and also enhances our public safety.

I really wanted to talk about a lot of the benefits that I think, to the State, that this will do from a Civil Rights perspective. But after the last panel, I feel like I have to respond to what was brought up.

The invocation of terrorism in this discussion -- which is not just here at the Committee, but in the media as well -- really does a disservice to this discussion. Linking our immigrant communities in New Jersey -- who are hardworking parents, and grandparents, and fathers, and mothers, many of whom are here today -- and comparing them to terrorists and pedophiles is really not-- If we're going to have a serious debate about this issue in New Jersey, that's not where that debate should be taking place. And frankly, we need to be dealing with facts.

And so I want to talk a bit about public safety, which is to say: one thing we need to keep in mind -- and I cite a little bit of this in my

written testimony -- there seems to be an idea that keeping immigrants out of government databases is a good idea for our public safety; that keeping police from knowing information about people is a good idea for public safety; that making sure that immigrants don't interact with police, don't interact with law enforcement, stay out of the eye of law enforcement is going to somehow keep us safer. There is a lot of evidence out there -- former Department of Homeland Security officers and others -- who have come out very strongly and said, "This is going to make us safer." And frankly, we don't have to look just to the theory. We have now a dozen states and Washington that have already gone forward in this and have seen the positive benefits that come from it.

So I hope that when we're talking about public safety, we keep in mind what this means, which is that today-- And there is a lot of research. You don't need research -- talk to folks in this audience and other places. When you're undocumented, you do what you need to do to stay out of interacting with law enforcement. And what providing a license -- not just for driving, but for identification -- does is, it brings people into the light and out of the shadows. It brings communities into relationships with law enforcement so that they can share intelligence.

I don't think there's a benefit to going into the details of what happened in Paris over the weekend, because we don't know a lot of the facts yet. But suffice it to say that the type of-- What happened in smaller cafés and things like that -- the way you deal with that is with good intelligence. And if you don't have good intelligence because people won't talk to you, public safety is jeopardized.

Beyond that, I think it's really important that we talk about how carefully this bill was drafted. This bill was drafted with a close eye toward Federal law; it comports with Federal law. A lot of the discussion on the previous panel about everyone voting on this Committee and being in violation of Federal law simply has no basis in fact whatsoever.

But beyond that, it does anticipate the implementation of the Real ID Act in New Jersey, which creates nationwide standards for driver's licenses to which this bill closely adheres.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you to wrap it up. I didn't hear the ring.

MR. ROSMARIN: I'll close by saying this is a smart move, both for Civil Rights and public safety, and I strongly urge you to release the bill.

Thank you. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Go ahead, Raj.

A S S E M B L Y M A N R A J M U K H E R J I: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Committee.

I think Ari nailed it. You know, this bill is not just about human dignity for this portion of the immigrant population in our state. It's not just about integrating the undocumented immigrants in our state into society and, by extension, into our economy -- which has worked fairly well for the dozen states and the District of Columbia that have already done this.

It's about public safety. And if these members of our immigrant community are already on the roads, and they're already operating motor vehicles, then why wouldn't we all want them licensed with

vehicles that are registered and insured? And with all respect to our predecessor panel, it's an absolute falsehood that undocumented immigrants won't have access to car insurance, or that that is a red herring. In fact, California actually subsidizes its low-cost insurance program and markets it specifically to this immigrant community in order to maintain some stability of rates, and ensure that if there are accidents-- They are less likely to occur when drivers have been tested, when they have undergone the same requirements that we all had to go through to get our driver's licenses; and when they're not living in the shadows, and when they're not fearful of being deported when they're passing a police car on the road, which would make them act in an unsafe manner because of their nervousness.

Finally, I would say that, as a former sergeant in the Marine Corps whose MOS -- Military Occupation -- was intelligence, I know -- and Madam Chair, I'm extremely appreciative of the opportunity to sponsor this bill with you -- that national security was of paramount concern of the sponsors. And in fact, when undocumented immigrants are licensed, operating motor vehicles that are registered, insured, able to get to work by virtue of legally -- of having a driver's license issued to them, and paying taxes as a consequence of that fact; when they're integrated into our society and into our community and into our economy, our homeland security -- our public safety will improve.

And with all due respect to my friend and colleague from the other side of the aisle -- Holly, you know that you look young enough that you're carded by bartenders to this day. And if bartenders can decipher the date of birth or the year in small print on our licenses, I trust that our TSA

agents, who are specially trained, are going to see that “Federal limits may apply.” We’re not the guinea pigs. I would have loved New Jersey to have been the first state to do this; I would have loved it. But we’re not the guinea pigs and, in fact, we have a dozen other states and the District of Columbia where this has been tried, and tested, and it’s working. And it is better for the state as a whole.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee.
(applause)

L I Z Z E T T E D E L G A D O - P O L A N C O: Good afternoon, members of the Committee. My name is Lizzette Delgado-Polanco; I’m Executive Director for SEIU, the Service Employees International Union, New Jersey State Council. We represent about 40,000 members across the State of New Jersey.

And I am here today in support of the bill, which will allow persons who are undocumented to apply and test for driver’s licenses. This legislation makes common sense on so many fronts for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who would be eligible under this law. It would remove the obstacle of gigantic proportions that hampers their ability to find jobs so that they can take care of their families.

It would also help quell their fears of driving their children to school, going to doctor’s appointments, and driving to the grocery store -- just to do the basic necessities that we do on a daily basis as parents. This legislation would also allow those who are now in the shadows to stay forward and do what other New Jersey drivers are required do: pass a driving test, register their cars, and get car insurance. We’re talking about

the safety of those behind the wheel, as well as everyone on our roads. And we're talking about responsible driving.

I urge this Committee to please pass this legislation. And I want to take one moment to address something that came up in the previous panel -- the lady who was here; she had been here 24 years. And Assemblywoman Pinkin, I want to say that it's not like something that you apply to, to become documented. Becoming documented -- there are every obstacles there is in-- That's exactly why we need comprehensive immigration reform. Because if you don't fall under certain criteria, you can't apply. You have to stay in the shadows. If all the people in this room, and the people and the residents in the State of New Jersey had the option to apply for some type of amnesty or some kind of process to come out of the shadows -- trust me, they would. Because right now, they do miracles with the little bit of money that they have. And it's not by choice. If they had a choice, they wouldn't be undocumented.

Thank you. (applause)

DEACON PATRICK R. BRANNIGAN: My name is Pat Brannigan; I'm Executive Director at the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify before you.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, I ask this Committee to release favorably Assembly Bill 4425, the New Jersey Safe and Responsible Drivers Act.

The Catholic Bishops support A-4425, as we also continue our support for comprehensive immigration reform based upon the core of

Catholic social teaching, and prompted by the experience of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph who, as refugees, fled to Egypt.

Our support is informed by Jesus' teaching -- that whatever we do to the least among us, we do to him. But beyond our values and teachings, from a pragmatic perspective, the New Jersey Catholic Conference supports A-4425 because this bill will promote safety on New Jersey roads and will contribute to economic growth, especially in our urban areas.

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey also offer support because A-4425 will promote family unity. The reality is that undocumented residents and documented residents drive for similar reasons. We all drive to go to work, to take our children to school, to take our sick child to the doctor or to the hospital, and to shop for food. Unlike the rest of us, the undocumented always drives with fear -- the fear of being arrested and deported.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, in supporting the release of A-4425, I think I bring a unique perspective to the Committee. Not only do I speak on behalf of Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, but my prior public service provides me with an insight as to why I think A-4425 should be released favorably. For approximately three years I served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles; and for a few months, as the Acting Director. Having responsibility for safe driving on New Jersey roads, I know firsthand how important driver safety is to the well-being of the common good. My DMV experience convinces me that requiring individuals to pass written and driving tests will make New Jersey's roads safer than they are today. And most important, once

licensed, these individuals will be held accountable for motor vehicle violations that could lead to the loss of their license to drive.

Madam Chair, as mentioned before, we do not need to support A-4425 on faith. We can look to the successful experience in Vermont, Connecticut, Maryland, Washington D.C., Illinois, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and the state of Washington. The successful implementation of similar programs in other states demonstrates pragmatically that releasing A-4425 has the potential to benefit all of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak strongly in favor of the release of A-4425. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Any questions?

Go ahead, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Thank you.

First, to the gentleman with the ACLU -- I apologize, I forgot your name -- you indicated that this isn't a terrorism issue, and that it's not fair to the people sitting behind you to say that it is. And I can say that probably everybody who is sitting behind you is a hardworking person who has a family, who is not here for nefarious reasons.

However, if you look at what just happened around the world in a lot of different places-- You know, I was on vacation in Saint Martin last week. Three people were arrested at the airport I was at on Saturday; Syrian nationals, coming through with Greek passports that were issued to undocumented Syrians, where they got arrested because all the information was erroneous and incorrect. And, Lord knows what they were coming

through the island of Saint Martin to do on a charter from Haiti. So we're seeing it all around the world.

With respect to us in New Jersey right now, with respect to -- in the United States -- a couple of facts that you may not be aware of. I posed earlier, with somebody who was sitting here, my concern about being able to use these licenses to get on airplanes. When Oregon was looking to do the exact same thing, there was a big brouhaha in Oregon because there was a newscaster, Lars Larson, who had indicated the same concern. *PolitiFact* actually researched it and spoke with the TSA. TSA confirmed that those licenses could be utilized to get on airplanes. So, I mean, that was just within the past several months.

On top of it, you have Colorado. Colorado, within the first year of insurance, the group that was issuing these licenses incorrectly and improperly issued 524 licenses without any sort of differentiating thing on them, and then had to go door-to-door trying to seek back licenses from people who got them improperly.

There are a lot of things that do impact on national security issues. The FBI spoke to one of the things that is a permitted source of identification here--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Is there a question?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: There will be.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: --is a valid, unexpired Consular identification document.

Are you familiar with any of the FBI reports on those forms of IDs, and how easy they are to get fraudulently, and how they're utilized in a lot of terrorist-type of situations?

MR. ROSMARIN: There were a number of questions there.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right.

MR. ROSMARIN: The first I would speak to is the question of boarding airplanes in the state of Oregon.

One thing-- I'm not sure; I'm not familiar with what happened in Oregon. I do know that the state of California is one of the most recent states, and a state that certainly, by magnitude of its size and the number of air travelers, would take this issue very seriously. And that state's scheme -- which has a similar concept of having a marked and unmarked license -- was granted approval by the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Transportation and Safety Administration. I would assume that the TSA and the Department of Homeland Security are also concerned about airports and air safety. And I think the fact that they reviewed closely, and modified, and then approved the plan in California moving forward -- which is the one this program is based on -- I would assume that that approval addresses at least -- should go a long way towards addressing some of the concerns about air travel.

As far as-- I don't remember what the second one-- And the Consular IDs; one thing is that-- The Consular ID is not the totem of the document ID requirements that need to be provided. It's a common ID that folks have access to if they don't have access to some other documents -- which is why it creates an additional scheme. But it's not-- You don't have one Consular ID and then you're done. There's a point scheme, like

folks who are documented have to do to prove identity and residency in New Jersey.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: But that is the principal item here, combined with an original birth certificate. Now, there are 195 countries, currently, in the world, and that ebbs and flows on any given day. How, from a practical perspective, is somebody who works at the DMV, who receives a Consular ID and a birth certificate from a country in a language-- There are 115 distinct languages in which birth certificates are currently issued. How is somebody supposed to be able to look at that and go, "This complies with the six-point system"?

MR. ROSMARIN: What I would presume would happen is that, similar to the 12 states and Washington D.C. that are already doing this -- and I don't know if all of them, what their relationship is with the Consular ID, but the Federal government and these states have developed aggressive review and screening programs for these documents. There is training and software available. I imagine that the agency charged with implementation would draft rules and training for DMV employees so that they can do that.

I agree with you that we don't want our Motor Vehicles being our immigration agency. But as we're doing it the way it is today, that's the role that they're playing. Their job today is to screen who is in the country lawfully and who is not. And so I don't know that this changes that role all together, all that differently. All it does is say that they now have the ability to issue a license, as opposed to only deny a license. But either way, they are making determinations about immigration status.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I promise this is my last question to you.

Would you have concerns regarding only being able to issue if you're shown proof of residence for a certain number of years within the State of New Jersey?

MR. ROSMARIN: Yes, I think -- and I don't remember the text of the bill -- I do think that somebody coming in from absolutely -- walking into New Jersey on day one should not be able to get a New Jersey license. But I do think that there are reasonable examples from other states on how to do that. And I think it's similar to the way we treat people who are documented. You can't pop in all of a sudden, and you need to be able to establish residency. And that should be a similar process here -- being able to prove that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Any other questions?

Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: In reference to this issue that we're talking about, the Pew Trust issued a report that was called *Deciding Who Drives*. And it addresses a lot of these issues that went into consideration of the separation of Federal and State requirements. One of the things that wasn't clear to me, really, until I read this, said, "While issuing driver's licenses and determining eligibility is a state choice" -- state-level choice and responsibility. But even so, the Federal government took on the role when they did the Real ID Act, and that legislation set the minimum standards that the states had to adopt for licenses to be recognized by the Federal agencies for official purposes. And they spell out exactly what the requirements are and what cases it would be used for or

not be used for. They delineate the fact that it cannot -- that the drivers' certificates would not be used for Federal travel. And following this legislation we would have regulations, that would be issued by the State Motor Vehicles, to put those things into play.

But they spell out a lot of the issues that are being addressed, and talk about the procedures that the different states are using. Some of them include document retention, the facial image capture, the verification, the physical security, and fraud recognition. And part of it addresses reducing fraud, and even addresses the issue of people who had fraudulent licenses before.

So I just ask you to read that and consider some of the information that's included in that report that answers many of these questions.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

Okay, thank you.

Next panel: Ron Bass, Barbara Sachau, Pat DeFillipis -- opposed.

And while the individuals are coming up -- we're still missing one -- the next panel will be Kevin Brown, Sara Lilja, Tom Sheppard, and Freeholder Bobadilla.

Okay, who is going to start on this panel?

BARBARA SACHAU: Barbara Sachau.

I did want to point out that the majority of the states do not authorize driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. So we have well over 40

states that do nothing to give licenses to illegal immigrants. Certainly, the majority of America is not into this. And we have a few states that have issued -- some -- and, certainly, that's not the majority. So we don't have to follow a few states that have gone that route; we can do our own thing here in New Jersey.

Also, you pointed out, 92 percent of the people who are working are American citizens and are authorized to be here in the United States. And they have to contend, every day, with going to work with people who should not be on the roads -- because illegal immigrants do not presently have the right to be on the roads to go to a job. They should not even be working because most jobs require an I-9 -- an I-9 form, which means that you have to produce identification as an American authorized to work here. So that if you're on the roads going to work, they're going to an illegal job that they shouldn't have in the first place.

So that we certainly need more enforcement -- it's clear we need more enforcement to make sure that the laws we have are being followed. We have a lot of lawbreaking going on, and most of the lawbreaking we have going on is by people who broke the original rule of not coming here unless you come here under our laws.

So we have a pattern of lawbreaking going on, and I don't think we should encourage that at all. I don't support lawbreaking. I mean, most American citizens have been trained to try to follow laws. That's why we have a legislature here to make them. So why would you, if you're in the job of making laws, authorize a law for people who are breaking laws? Can you make sense of that? I can't.

And this Motor Vehicle license law for illegal immigrants does devalue the license that is there for American citizens and those authorized to be here; it devalues it. And people can't read that little 10-point or smaller font that we have on the bottom of the license. And that will be ignored, and it will be misused. It will be misused.

And as far as making the point that we don't want to keep people in the shadows -- you're right; we don't want to keep people in the shadows. What we should be doing is having law enforcement enforce the laws we have in place. If you're here illegally, you should be deported, according to our laws. Those are the laws that are still in place. They have not been repealed, they have not been changed. But we just have a lack of enforcement going on.

Thank you.

R O N B A S S: Good afternoon. I'm Ron Bass, and I'm here because I became a citizen activist 14 years ago on 9/11 when I lost a loved one.

There were 19 hijackers who participated in that; and between them, they had a total of about 63 driver's licenses. So the state that I live in wants to issue driver's licenses now to people who are undocumented and not properly vetted. And the only way you can be properly vetted is through records from your country of origin. So I find this an oxymoron that the Committee I'm in front of -- Homeland Security and State Preparedness -- is proposing a bill and a law that is a little shaky on homeland security. I think this bill should be in a different Committee.

So based on the fact that this is a security issue, in view of what's going on in this country-- We had the Boston Marathon problem;

that was an issue with foreigners coming into this country. I'm not sure whether they are undocumented or not, but this is a dangerous issue.

And my last point is that laws pertaining to immigration are set by the Federal government and not by the states. And because the other states have violated these laws, what we have is a problem with the rule of law in our country. And if the executives in this state and other states would enforce our immigration laws, all the people behind me would not be undocumented, and they would have driver's licenses, and we wouldn't have to be here today.

Thank you.

P A T D e F I L I P P I S: I oppose giving driver's licenses to illegal aliens because of the Matricula card.

It is a known fact that U.S. law enforcement officials also cite that Matricula Consular cards are issued by the consulate without checking the authenticity of the applicant's supporting documents. In testifying to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the FBI disclosed and reported that the Matricula card is inherently unreliable and unverifiable. Also, as an identification card, it is highly vulnerable to fraud.

Granting driver's licenses only encourages more illegal immigration and job losses for citizens of New Jersey.

I'm quite disturbed that -- after 9/11, our motor vehicle laws were changed because of the terrorists; here we go, changing them to make it convenient for people who do not belong in this country, that took it upon themselves to come here, and now they're talking, "Oh, they're being discriminated against; they need a driver's license." It's unconscionable for you to be allowing this to happen with what's going on in this world. There

are terrorists; we don't know who they are, where they come from. And we're going to give driver's licenses to people who don't belong in this country in the first place.

Why are we pandering to people who do not belong here? Let's concentrate on taking care of the American citizens and securing our Motor Vehicle system so that nobody can come into this country and get an illegal license.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Next panel.

I just want to say one thing. This does not have to do with terrorism; this has to do with safety on the roads. (applause)

MS. DeFILIPPIS: But it encourages terrorism. It's a form of ID; it's a form of ID.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you to refrain from clapping, please. And make sure that your cell phones are off.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: (Indiscernible).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you to show-- Just keep it down.

Okay, next panel -- and you can decide who will start first.

FREEHOLDER ROLANDO BOBADILLA: I will decide first. (laughter) I will decide I will go first -- sorry.

My name is Rolando Bobadilla. I'm the Essex County--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'm sorry, Freeholder. Can everyone who is in the middle -- could you leave the room if you need to have a discussion?

Thank you.

Can you start over, Freeholder?

FREEHOLDER BOBADILLA: Sure, thank you.

My name is Rolando Bobadilla. I am the Essex County Freeholder for District 1, representing about 160,000 people.

You know, I think that we're kind of trying to create all these million-case scenarios of possibilities of terrorism, right? I honestly think that not in my lifetime, or your lifetime, or my kid's lifetime will there be the safety measures that we can guarantee 100 percent against acts of terrorism carried out by anyone who really wants to carry them out.

That is something that we must live with every day; that is something real. And unfortunately, it creates a lot of fear. But that fear alone should not be the reason why we don't look at this bill and think about good governance. If you think about good governance, you're thinking about realizing that there is a problem, right? We have people driving without licenses; they're not vetted to drive; we don't know what their capacity is to drive; they are incurring costs to our infrastructure.

I mean, I think it's logical to say that if we pass such a law, that we will be able to create a better public safety initiative. You know, the Motor Vehicle Commission is charged with the mission of creating a safe parameter for our highways and streets. And that's not being done because, as of right now, we have thousands of individuals who are unable to be identified because we don't pass such a law. I think that fear alone should not dictate that.

You know, there really is no evidence to support that our state will be more unsafe by passing this bill. There's nothing out there to

support that. And by not addressing this bill, by not really addressing the public safety of it, we're saying "no" to public safety, but we're also saying "no" to community development. Because if you look around this room, this is America. (gestures) Citizens -- legal immigrants and illegal immigrants. And this is going to be America for a very, very, very long time, okay? (applause)

We're not dictating national policy here. What were trying to do is provide access that is commonsense -- that just makes absolutely a world of sense for families, individuals, businesses, services, and just to really do what is the right thing to do. Sometimes you can't just look at government and think it's just about laws. Sometimes it's also about humanity, and being humane, and recognizing that there are barriers out there that our citizens are going through every single day, every single second.

Thank you.

R E V E R E N D S A R A E . L I L J A: Hi, my name is Sara Lilja. I'm the Director of the Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey. I represent the Lutheran ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

And on behalf of those three Bishops, I'd like to send my support for this piece of legislation, and to share with you our thanks for bringing this up for consideration.

We in the Lutheran and Episcopal churches have a long understanding of how unfairly immigrants have been treated in the United States. We have a long history of standing in support and in solidarity with folks who have come from all over the world. And we stand for welcome.

Alongside of that, we also understand that the church needs to be a place where communities can be developed; where people can live without fear; where we have a sense of mutual accountability and responsibility to and for each other.

The driver's license conversation today has been most interesting -- but particularly because it does allow for the opportunity for people to be recognized by government to pull together communities, policing, and others so that we have a sense of who each other are; we have a sense of a shared sense of what's important to our country. We know what are the rules of the road and the common understandings for operating a motor vehicle.

So we completely support this kind of understanding that, when all of the people who live together in community have a shared sense of how we work together and how we can be known by and with each other, we live without fear. We have a better sense of who our neighbors are.

And from the church's point of view, growing in a sense of neighborhood and neighborliness is what makes this world better and brings people together. It creates justice, it creates peace, and, foremost, it also alleviates fear.

And of all we've heard today, from all the different angles of points of view here, a lot of it has been about fear. And so what we need to do, as the community of faith, is to work towards the attention and care so that people don't need to feel like they live in fear.

Thanks so much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

F R E E H O L D E R T H O M A S S H E P P A R D: I'm Tom Sheppard; I'm a Freeholder from Cumberland County.

And we passed a resolution encouraging you to pass this resolution (*sic*) onto the full Assembly. We did that in a bipartisan manner -- I'm a Republican -- and we had only one dissenting vote on the Freeholder Board when we discussed this. We felt as -- Cumberland County, being a rural community -- transportation is a real problem. We have people there -- if you don't have a car, you can't get anywhere. And we have too many drivers on the road who don't have insurance, don't have a license; and people are in accidents, and the person on the other side of that car is not insured. So it's a problem for all people in Cumberland County, and all the rural areas of the state -- I'm sure, all the state.

So we feel it's good for the people of Cumberland County, and the state in general, that everybody has a driver's license, has insurance. And people say, "Oh, everybody is not going to get insurance." Well, no law is perfect; even God's laws aren't perfect, right? (laughter) They aren't all adhered to.

REVEREND LILJA: God's law, yes. (laughter)

FREEHOLDER SHEPPARD: But we feel that, in Cumberland County, it's a good thing.

But I wear two hats; I'm also a businessman. I'm a farmer; I own Sheppard Farms, Inc., and Eastern Fresh Growers. And I employ 260 largely Hispanic people on my farm. And I've grown up, since a young boy, working in the fields -- them not working *for* me, working *alongside* Hispanic people, one row to another, working. And I've known these people for --

I'm 61 years old, so 50 years we've been working alongside each other, and they're wonderful people.

They came here for the right reasons -- the same reasons my ancestors came here, and your ancestors came here. They came for a better life.

Our system that-- You guys aren't going to pass any immigration laws; the Federal government needs to do that, and they need to get off their rear ends and do that. But that law has gotten more serious over the years. In 1910, they issued 1.25 million immigration -- allowed people to come into this country when we only had 125 million people in the country. Now they do less than a million a year. So it's one-third less possible for these people to get legal than it was a hundred years ago when a lot of your ancestors came here.

I've got a great instance of a man who worked for me. He came here 30 years ago; he was in one of my harvest crews. He was initially in an hour-work crew -- paid by the hour, minimum wage. The rest of the crew was paid piecework, and they made a lot more money. He asked his crew boss, "Can I be a member of that crew?" And he finally relented and let him do that. The man, he was a young -- probably an 18- or 19-year-old man -- he worked hard, hard. I was in the field with him every day. Two days into it, his back hurt him so bad he was crying. But he stuck with it, and he became a full member of that crew, Now, today, he has his own farm. He has two daughters who graduated from Bridgeton High School and went along to college education. One is a teacher in the Bridgeton School System; his other daughter graduated with a degree in law. She is doing her clerkship in the Cumberland County Courthouse.

This is the American Dream, and these people are here for that and we need to encourage them.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

KEVIN BROWN: Good afternoon. My name is Kevin Brown; I'm Vice President and New Jersey State Director for 32BJ of the Service Employers International Union. We represent 11,000 property service workers across the State of New Jersey.

I come here today in support of Assembly Bill 4425. I want to thank Chairwoman Quijano and the entire Committee for addressing this very, very crucial issue.

As we've heard today, we desperately need comprehensive immigration reform in this country. The Donald Trump answer to deport 11 million people is abhorrent to American ideals. That is not what our country is about, and anyone who feels that way ought to reexamine themselves.

That hasn't happened; we haven't gotten a comprehensive immigration reform, we haven't even gotten DAPA -- this being the one-year anniversary of the law that would allow the children to be able to work here legally -- hasn't even happened because of the Republican's successful attempt thus far to challenge it in the courts.

Failing that, we need to do something to improve our state. It's a half-million people in our state who don't have status. We can improve their lives by allowing them to have a driver's license.

Since when does the ability to drive and follow the rules of the road have anything to do with someone's status? I don't understand that. It's two separate things: Do you know the rules of the road? Can you

follow the rules of the road? Can you get insurance and become part of our society, to some extent -- make sure that your kids get to school, make sure your kids can get to work, and help them?

You know, Karla spoke -- the first one today to speak -- and she-- Keep that in your head and in your heart when you think about this bill. Because she spoke from the heart about her life. And that's what this is really about -- is improving people's lives.

What happened in Paris is awful, is dreadful. We all understand that; we all agree on that. But it doesn't mean that you begin to fear monger. We did that during World War II when we interned Japanese in internment camps in California. That is not the answer. That is the threat to democracy. Democracy means trying to incorporate people, to the extent possible, into our civil society. They can't become residents, but we can allow them to drive and help their families.

Twelve states have done it; New Jersey can do it too. It's better for our community, it's better for our state, and I encourage the Committee to release the bill.

Thank you. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Do you have questions?

Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Just one question, because oftentimes it's easy to look at things compartmentalized. We are not the Transportation Committee; we are the Homeland Security Committee. If this was solely about driving privileges, this bill would not be before us. So there are very real things that we do need to look at and contemplate.

And to my colleague, who is a Freeholder-- Because, honestly, I've gone back and forth, sometimes, on this particular issue as well. I've worked as a Public Defender; I've represented people who are very similar to the people sitting here today who work hard, who have landscaping businesses, who are fearful of driving back and forth to work. So I'm not somebody who doesn't understand the very real ramifications of what people are looking to do.

But there are a lot of things that are contemporaneously taking place in New Jersey that have started to make me have greater concerns about a bill such as this. And I want to ask you if your view would change on this issue if you knew that simultaneously with this bill, there's a bill moving forward that would automatically register everybody to vote who gets a driver's license. So all of the people in this room could potentially, simultaneously, with receiving this driving privilege, be automatically registered to vote in New Jersey?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Holly, they would not be able to vote. They're not going to get a voter registration. It would be up to Motor Vehicles not to send it out, and they would still have to present their identity.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right. But under the two current bills that are on parallel tracks, it would result in that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay. Well, then, we will have to make sure that the other bill has a clause that says that this limited license -- they would not be sending the voter registration forms.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Well, it's not even sending the voter registration forms.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Well, you just said that the voter--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: You would automatically be registered to vote.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Well, then we're going to--

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE: (Indiscernible)
(Loud groans and shouts)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need everyone to--

(audience quiets)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

We will have to make sure that there's a clause included in the other bill that will prevent that. Because we're not here to say, "Everybody in this room, who doesn't have documents, is going to vote." And so, you know what? I'll look at it tomorrow, and if you have wording that you would like to propose for the other bill, I'll be more than happy to work with you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Can I have the next panel? Okay; I did not even call them up to panel yet.

Rodolfo Rodriguez, in favor; Father Timothy Graff, in favor; Reverend Miguel Hernandez, in favor; and Sally Pillay, from First Friends, in favor.

You can start.

R O D O L F O R O D R I G U E Z: Okay.

Good afternoon. My name is Rodolfo Rodriguez; I am the West Orange Deputy Mayor. I am also the President of the Hispanic Foundation of West Orange.

I'm here to support this bill for several reasons. Reason number one is because I see it daily -- people driving without a license in the street. And I believe that everyone deserves a chance in this world. Everyone in this country -- and I mean *everyone* in this country is an immigrant. Some people came 200 years ago; some came 10 years ago. So we all came sometime in history to the United States. And we need to back up the people who came in here 10, 15, 20 years ago who haven't been able to legalize their status in the United States.

I see, in my Hispanic communities, hardworking people; people who have been trying very hard to educate their kids; people who have been sending their kids to school, paying high taxes; sending their kids to college, graduating them. I see people -- honest people who have been contributing to the economy of this country. And I believe that all they're asking for is a permit, a driver's license -- which is not even going to be the same as yours and mine. And I believe we can support that.

I think that this will boost our economy, because we have hundreds of thousands of people illegally driving out there, and this is going to boost our economy by -- when they go get their licenses, they have to pay. They get insurance, they're going to buy cars, for sure. And it's going to benefit these people in the transportation of the family in their daily lives.

We have a dozen states that have already approved this law; I don't see why New Jersey cannot. I support this law, and I believe -- and I

do appreciate those of you in favor. I made the long drive from West Orange to be here to support them, because I believe that this is what America is all about -- immigrants who have been working hard to make this great nation what it is today.

Thank you. (applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Next speaker.

R E V E R E N D M I G U E L A. H E R N A N D E Z: I'm the Reverend Hernandez from the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Orange, New Jersey.

I have a long history of living and working in New Jersey. Currently, I reside in New York City; but I work in New Jersey and I have been working in New Jersey since before I became a priest. I started working out on Route 114, on the Parkway, as an engineer for Bell Labs in 1984. And I am familiar with the roads, and I can see the importance of people to have the freedom to move. And I believe that's one of the human rights that are in the Declaration of the Human Rights of the United Nations -- that people have the right to move.

When people don't have that opportunity and they are confined to specific areas, they don't have opportunities. Originally, I am from El Salvador, and I have to remind you of a little bit of the history as to why we moved to the United States.

Some predecessors earlier spoke about the history of Jesus and his family moving from Palestine to Egypt. Motion has been always free in the world. This is a modern creation -- controlling borders, controlling people. In the past, that did not exist.

In our country, in El Salvador, as you might recall, there was a civil war that lasted over 12 years. And now, we have something that is called a *social war*. And as a result of that, people are being pushed out of their homes, out of their businesses. And they see the United States as a place to come, because it is the only place that they can see that is safe. And I think by allowing people to get driver's licenses, that would allow them to be truly free, to move around, and to develop in their communities.

As a member of the church, I can see a lot of people who have difficulties coming to services because the buses in New Jersey -- they are not running on time. It takes a long time-- I move, sometimes, from Newark -- I take the bus from Newark to West Orange. It takes me an hour and 15 minutes -- that little span. If I drive, it's only 10, 15 minutes, depending on the traffic.

So I am in support of this bill, and I encourage you and pray that you vote in favor for it.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you very much.

The next panel is going to be from the Wind of the Spirit -- *Viento del Espíritu*. Are they in the room? I have Blanca Ruby; Jasmina -- I'm sorry, I can't read your last name; Blanca Soto; Claudia Mejia Sydenstricker.

C L A U D I A M E J I A S Y D E N S T R I C K E R: Sydenstricker.
(indicating pronunciation)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF COMMITTEE: They will use a translator.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay.

Now, do I-- Am I still missing--

All right. Can you tell me your names, so I can see who I'm missing still?

B L A N C A R. S O T O: Blanca Soto.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'm sorry?

MS. SOTO: Blanca Soto.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Blanca? Okay.

So is Blanca Ruby--

MS. SOTO: Blanca Ruby.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, wait a minute; I'm sorry.

Oh, so Blanca Ruby and Blanca R. Soto are the same person.

MS. SOTO: Si.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, that helps. (laughter)

Okay, all right. So then I have a complete panel.

All right, thank you. You can start.

(Ms. Soto speaks in Spanish through an interpreter)

MS. SOTO: Good afternoon.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'm sorry, I can't see -- is her red-- I can't see if her microphone is on.

INTERPRETER: It's on; I just turned it on.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay. I need the young lady's microphone to be turned off.

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: Oh.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, okay.

Red in Trenton means *go*, even though it should be *stop*.

Okay, that's it; you got it off.

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: To be *off*?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Let's start over, okay?

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: Okay.

MS. SOTO: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee. My name is Blanca Soto; I'm here on behalf of Wind of the Spirit from Morristown.

We have our three reasons that I think why you should pass this bill. First and foremost, it would help families in New Jersey.

I am a single mother; I work very hard, and I pay my taxes. It affects dignity and the rights of everyone in the community.

I have a 13-year-old child, who I support, and he relies on me for transportation to school, extracurricular activities, sporting events, and such. Expanding driver's licenses would promote revenue growth in New Jersey because, obviously, we would purchase automobiles and insurance to go with them. This would also help reduce taxes on automobiles in New Jersey. It would make our roads safer, and improve the well-being of everyone in the state. We would all be taking the same exam to drive on the roads. Eleven states and two territories have already passed a similar bill.

I count on your support. Thank you, and God bless.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, thank you.

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: So I press this button? (referring to PA microphone)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Turn off the-- Yes.

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: Good afternoon. My name is Claudia Mejia Sydenstricker, and I am 10 years old. I live in Madison, New Jersey, and attend Central Avenue Public School. My parents were both undocumented; in fact, my whole family was or is undocumented.

I came here to talk about driver's licenses. Undocumented people should have driver's licenses. People drive without driver's licenses every day. They drive worried that they'll get stopped by the police and be deported, and sometimes they do.

Only a few years ago I went to Elizabeth Detention Center to visit a guy who was being deported because he had been stopped by the police and did not have a driver's license. My aunt and uncle, who used to live in this country, always drove on fear. They were afraid of getting deported on the way to work or on the way home. My cousins would freak out when they saw the police or police car.

Documented people, like you, need a driver's license to go to work, to drive kids to school, to go to church, and to go to the doctor. Undocumented people in my community need driver's licenses too.
(applause)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Is there any one else from the Wind of the Spirit? I have a Jasmina, or Jasmine? (no response)

Okay, thank you so much.

MS. SYDENSTRICKER: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Is she coming?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: You have to fill out one of these. (refers to witness slip)

All right, the next group--

Did you want to speak, the translator? No? Okay.

All right, the next group: Juan Reyes, Casa Freehold; Leticia Fraga and Maria Juegas; Alejandra Ruiz; and Nuno Pereira, Make the Road.

Anyone can start.

A L E J A N D R A R U I Z M E D I N A:

(Ms. Ruiz speaks in Spanish through an interpreter)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Do you have--

INTERPRETER: Good afternoon.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Oh, okay. You're the translator.

MS. RUIZ: My name is Alejandra Ruiz Medina. Thank you to the Homeland Security Committee for listening to my testimony.

About five years ago, I had a really hard experience with my sister. A car ran a red light and impacted my car. It turned out everything was okay, and everybody was okay. The police came and asked me for my license. I told the policeman that I didn't have a license and that the accident wasn't my fault. So he just told me, "I don't have anything to talk to you about." I wanted to explain to him that it wasn't my fault, but he ignored me.

I waited for my parents to get there, and my husband, so they could talk to the policeman. He didn't want to talk to us; he ignored us, and he gave me the tickets.

I went to traffic court, like, a month later. And over there they told me that my case was transferred to Camden County because somebody died because of that accident. We had to hire a lawyer. I was ignorant of the laws in this country, and I blindly believed everything my lawyer said. He told me to plead guilty for the accident and (indiscernible) the dead person, and he told me that nobody from Immigration was there. And so I did. I pled guilty for something that I didn't do.

So he was right; at that moment, nothing happened. So a year-and-a-half later, Immigration came to my house and arrested me, with cuffs on my hands and legs, like a criminal. I was freed a week later, but it was like "liberty," or "freedom," because paying \$25,000 is nothing compared to the bad criticism and humiliation that I had to endure.

Earlier this year, my husband got really sick with a cerebral aneurysm when our baby was just one month old. He was transferred to a hospital here in Trenton. Going to visit him was very risky for me because I knew the police could stop me at any moment and ask me for my license, and detain me, and deport me.

We are not criminals. Our only crime is not having a driver's license. Having a driver's license is not a luxury, it's a necessity. I think that, at that moment, if I had had a driver's license, the policeman would not have ignored me and things would have been different.

I know it's not easy to get a driver's license, but we pay taxes every year. And even with that, we can't get it. It is not only a benefit for us, but it is also a benefit for the State because we have to pass the driver's test.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you very much.

Next speaker.

NUNO PEREIRA: Good afternoon. My name is Nuno Pereira, and I want to start off by saying it is a privilege and honor to be able to sit here and speak to you.

I am going to keep it very personal, because I do not have credibility in economics or anything of the sort -- so I can't really push into that. However, I am the son of an immigrant; my mom actually spoke earlier. She was the woman who lived here for 24 years, and I'm her child, grown up, 20 years old now and in college.

Now, one of the things that aren't really said is what happens to the children of immigrants. Now, one of them did speak, and I'm glad -- I'm sure she's very happy right now, and I can see -- and I am proud of her for being able to come up here and speak.

As for me, my father was arrested. He was coming back from work and he was stopped by the police and held for many months. He was the only one who actually made the money for our house, and so we fell deep into poverty for those months that he was away. And in that time, my mom did not want to leave us with other people, but she was forced to. And in that time, I can tell you that, for myself, I went through hell because my mom was not there to protect me. We had to be left with our cousin and, during that time, I was abused physically, mentally, and, unfortunately, sexually as well.

This is what happens when people break up families. You have children who suffer as a result of it. Now people see me now; I've graduated Union County College with an associates degree. I'm a National Scholar

with a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. And I was only 1 of 90 of 2,400 applicants in the entire country who was accepted. And now I'm studying at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, full ride.

However, they don't see my past -- that both my parents are undocumented immigrants, and we had to suffer for years growing up; that we had to struggle to get what we have right now.

So I'm here to use my voice to advocate for the children of undocumented immigrants; to tell you it is important and crucial that you allow immigrant families to have a driver's license -- something that could have prevented my dad from being stopped, and from things happening to me that I cannot really go into detail about.

It is, without a doubt, just a change of life for children to have the same opportunities as everyone else in this country, to be able to grow up without fear that their parents can be deported. Because I could not go to the police, because I was threatened that if I did, they would call the police on my mom and have her deported. And that fear alone kept me quiet until right now.

It's that kind of situation that we put our kids into if this continues. This fear is not healthy because -- I don't have to have a degree, and I don't think anyone here has to, to know that any of those three abuses on a child, as they develop, is not healthy and is not proper.

That's all I really have to say. And I plead to you, and I beg you to approve this and give the opportunities to families as well.

Thank you. (applause)

LETICIA FRAGA NADLER: Good afternoon. My name is Leticia Fraga, and I am here to represent the Latin American Legal Defense

and Education Fund -- LALDEF. And I am not going to -- I will try not to repeat what has already been pointed out in support of this bill, but I do want to, perhaps, emphasize some of them.

One being that 1 in 10 children in New Jersey is likely to be cared for by non-citizen parents who are lacking permanent immigration authorization. Most of these children are U.S. citizens by birth, but their access to health care, education, and social and recreational activities suffers if their parents can't take them to their school or childcare centers.

Expanding driving privileges does not threaten homeland security. In fact, according to the American Association of Motor Vehicles Administration, possible positive implications would include an increase in license and insured drivers who meet State driving standards, which would enhance public safety. Also, a decrease in the number of residents who are avoiding contact with law enforcement.

Denial of driving privileges decreases highway safety. Economic, health, and social imperatives force residents denied a license to drive without one. And without insurance, this endangers all drivers. Others opt to walk or bike on routes that are not designated for pedestrian traffic, which puts themselves at great risk.

Social, economic, and law enforcement costs related to withholding of driving privileges to such a large sector of New Jersey residents significantly outweighs the questionable benefits of such a policy. Actually, something that was mentioned in the past about possible fraud-- I just wanted to point out I came here to New Jersey from the state of Washington where such -- driver's licenses have been available for many years. And I can attest to the fact that there are processes already in place

to prevent fraud -- where individuals coming from other states, who cannot prove residency in the state, cannot get a driver's license. There is something already in place for that. Even though, in fact, we do have-- I know that there are many residents from New Jersey who go to other states and spend thousands of dollars--

Actually, also, I wanted to ask that this bill be expanded to contemplate the issuance of a New Jersey ID card -- with similar documentation requirements as the limited driver's licenses -- for residents who do not wish to obtain driving privileges, but are unable to obtain existing non-driver ID cards for purposes of access to health care and other safety-net services.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

I just need to confirm: The young man -- what is your name? I have to check that I have your slip here.

MR. PEREIRA: My name is Nuno, N-U-N-O.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Oh, Nuno Pereira.

MR. PEREIRA: Yes, Pereira.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, thank you. We have it.

Okay, thank you so much.

Okay, let me call these names again to see-- Father Timothy Graff, Archdiocese of Newark, in favor; Sally Pillay, First Friends, in favor; and Juan Reyes, Casa Freehold, in favor. And Jasmina -- and this is a last name that I cannot read, and I will say Campa (indicating pronunciation), from Wind of the Spirit, in favor.

All right, the next panel: Diana Rodriguez, Church St. Joseph; Diego Munoz, Ecuadorian American Chamber of Commerce New Jersey, in favor; Al Frech, in favor -- that's three -- and Nieves Ramos, Desfiles Dominicano de Essex, in favor. If you could please come up.

(Committee room lights go out)

All right, someone leaned on the light switch.

(lights come on)

Okay -- and then there was light. (laughter)

Okay, Alba Cardenas, Latinos Unidos de Orange, New Jersey; Carlos Cruz, Hispanic Development Association; Carmen Salavarieta, Angels for Action.

Okay, so let's start with who's here. You can decide who goes first.

C A R L O S C R U Z: My name is Carlos Cruz; I'm the President of the Hispanic Community Association for Development and Promotion. And also I am the President of the ESL (Indiscernible) of the Newark Tech School in Essex County.

I'm here to support the bill because I believe it is the right thing to do. I have several points, but I'm not going to repeat them, because the people behind me -- they told you, a couple of times, the same things. But I want to tell this whole panel is we are not here looking for the right to vote. This movement is not looking for the right to vote because I believe that just the *citizens* of this country have the right to vote -- not a *resident*.

We are looking for the right to help our families, to ride. The people who have a driver's license have a normal life. They can take their child to the park to have recreational activities. And then, sometimes they

are close to the gang members -- because they are not allowed to pick up their kid at school, they have to walk through the neighborhood and sometimes the gang members abuse our kids.

This is the right that we're looking for -- to have this State-- Is this a safety issue? Yes. I believe a lot of people here are looking for help to raise a family.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Next.

A L B A C A R D E N A S: Good afternoon. My name is Alba Cardenas. I'm here representing Latinos Unidos en West Orange, New Jersey, just to say this is not something fancy that we're looking for, or something to just take advantage of. It is a right; it's what we need for the day laborers. We are looking to be driving safe with no fear, with confidence.

We are Spanish people, working very hard to-- The work is because we need to improve our lives, our children's lives. And if they give us the opportunity for us to drive with a driver's license, we want to be -- it's going to be better for everybody in the community, because it's making our children safe; we're going to be able to take them to the doctor, to the different events our community has on a daily basis.

So that is the reason we are here. We are looking to see you guys give us the right to be better in this country.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is (Indiscernible). I just said my name.

Well, I just want to share a little bit about the story of my life. I'm a wife; I'm 30 years old. I live in Camden, and I came from St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral. I am an immigrant. And I wanted to let you know, guys-- And I know you guys know that we are not monsters. We are persons like you. You guys have needs; we have needs too. And -- I'm sorry. Thanks to God; he gave the opportunity to work so many places. This has been tragic because sometimes because we are immigrants, many people discriminate against us like we are monsters; we are not. So many people who are nice and who have helped -- neighbors who help, people who were born here. That's (indiscernible). We are one in Christ, and I think we need opportunity.

You guys can help us with your votes. We need the opportunity to have licenses because we need to move. And like many of my (indiscernible) being here, telling you why. And I think you guys heard it already -- it's a need. You guy, thanks to God, you have a license. Good; we don't. Please help us.

That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Okay, next panel: Eliud Gautier; Gerson Gramajo; Norma Paz.

Okay, you can decide who will go first.

E L I U D G A U T I E R: Good afternoon -- and Assemblywoman Patricia Jones, welcome. I know you have just joined us and the Assembly -- with the position. Thank you for being here. I am also a resident of Deptford, New Jersey, so I am in your Legislative District. (speaks Spanish)

My name is Eliud Gautier; I'm a community activist as it pertains to the immigrant community in southern New Jersey. I've helped dozens of families, with individual tax ID numbers issued by the IRS, to legally purchase homes in New Jersey, regardless of their immigration status, since 2005. I'm also a member of Esperanza Para America, a national team of pastors, ministers, and lay persons who have been advocating for a just and comprehensive immigration reform for more than 10 years.

The leadership of Esperanza Para America is constantly meeting with our national elected officials in Washington DC, with the intention of helping move these positive conversations for Federal legislation reform -- on a regular basis. But I'm here as a concerned New Jersey resident, from Deptford in Gloucester County. Because there are some concerns pertaining to this proposed legislation that I want to address before this Committee.

I want to be clear that, from the beginning of this testimony, I am in favor of legislation A-4425. But it's unfortunate that we are in this situation because of the inability of our U.S. Senators and U.S. House of Representatives to come to fix our broken immigration system. I believe that this quagmire, that has placed millions of law-abiding residents in the shadows of our cities, towns, and hamlets across America, is placed squarely on the shoulders of these U.S. Representatives.

I admire the brilliant attempt by Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, who has made a valiant attempt to cure an ill that has been handed to her because of the inability of our national elected officials to respect the need of the Hispanic community -- along with other newly

arrived immigrants, who have been abandoned by one of the most powerful countries in the world -- to reach a consensus about what to do with this antiquated immigration system.

Therefore, this Committee's effort to repair this problem by properly identifying the immigrants in transition, as it pertains to their status in this country, and offering them the opportunity to obtain driver's licenses in order to (indiscernible) is admirable. This piecemeal attempt to repair our national immigration challenge has been forced into the hands of our New Jersey legislators at a time when America's fear of immigrants is constantly being stirred up by hate speeches and media biases. It's unfortunate, but nonetheless a heavy burden on the courier.

So therefore I encourage you to pass this legislation, but to be concerned with a growing group of people who will be jumping from state to state to get a driver's license in this state. And we need to add the protection, such as Assemblywoman Schepisi has been mentioning, about extending the need to prove the residency in the State of New Jersey.

And I have provided this in writing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Any questions?

Assemblywoman Jones.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Thank you very much for being here, and for acknowledging this as my first full day as a legislator -- having been sworn in one week ago today.

In the footsteps of Angel Fuentes -- who did an admirable job for the 5th District -- I want to thank you, and I want to say to you, when are we getting the buses to go to Washington?

MR. GAUTIER: We--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: This is a huge problem, and it needs to be solved there.

MR. GAUTIER: I've been going to D.C. for the last 10 years with 2,000 pastors from around the country. We've met with the legislators on both sides of the aisle, and we're constantly praying and believing-- With the pastors who are here, we pray and believe that something will happen, and nationally. Therefore, this burden that has been laid upon your shoulders should not be here. But rather, the full rights should be given to everyone who is here, regardless of how they came here. But there should be a transition where these men and women can live a peaceful and just life in this country.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: I knew you were my man. (laughter)

MR. GAUTIER: Thank you, thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Next.

G E R S O N G R A M A J O: Hi; good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, legislators. My name is Gerson Gramajo; I came to this country in 1988. I came here by myself. I've been here for 28 years.

And since I came here, the only word I know is *work*. Because I tried to go to school, but I couldn't because I have to work.

Since then, I've been trying-- I've spent about \$25,000 trying to get my status as an immigrant fixed, but I couldn't. So the only way I could get a driver's license was by getting shot in the street by a couple of gang members in 2011, which is three years ago.

I could only get a U Visa, which is going to expire next year, in January. The only way I can get my green card will be next year-- Well, right now, I'm trying to help the Guatemalan community here in Trenton to get a U Visa. I'm trying -- I have about five cases stuck because there is nobody helping me; and there is nobody answering the phone. There is one lady here -- she's in charge of the (indiscernible), and she's in charge of U Visas. And she's not even taking -- I don't think she's taking any of her phone calls, because I have called her a thousand times and she doesn't answer the phone. I go to the police; nobody gives me an answer. I will leave it at that.

Please, we need a driver's license because the people on the street are walking at 7 o'clock at night. I got shot; it was 6 o'clock at night, when I was going to a restaurant. I got shot three times in the back trying to run from these guys in 2011. And this is so broken; I've been here for 28 years and I am a working man. I was a working child, and I have been here for 28 years. I have my 16-year-old daughter, and I have a 4-year-old daughter. I gave them half-life, because without a driver's license, you cannot take them to the school, you cannot take them to the park, or you cannot take them to places where they need to go.

As an illegal, I cannot do anything. But I did try; I drove my van that got taken away from me by police because I didn't have a driver's license when they stopped me.

This is the situation right now. People are walking late at night. And these people are calling us *walking cash machines*. And we need help, we need help. In the street, I have five cases of guys right now; I don't know how to help them. I asked them for their paperwork -- for medical

paperwork and police work, and nobody is giving me anything. I promised them that I was going to help them with the U Visa -- I'm nobody, I just know the whole procedure. But there is nobody helping me.

Please, please -- we need a driver's license to help these people. There are too many -- there's already too many people dying in the street.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Okay, I need you to wrap it up.

MR. GRAMAJO: Okay, thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I'm going to send my Chief of Staff. Make sure you give him your name and your address -- your name and your phone number, okay?

MR. GRAMAJO: Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: So we can follow up.

Yes, ma'am.

N O R M A P A Z: Yes, hi. My name is Norma Paz. I'm a pastor in Camden's Latino worship community. I live in Trenton, and also I do my driving school in Trenton, New Jersey.

Every day, we have people calling us and coming to the office asking us to teach them how to drive because they want to drive, they need to drive. Of course we have to deny them because they don't have any permit to drive or to learn how to drive. I had one lady who came over to the office. She was crying because she was beaten and assaulted very badly while she was walking from her house to drop her kid at the babysitter. A man approached her, beat her, took her purse, threw her to the ground, beat her badly. And she didn't want to walk; she wanted to drive, and she came

to the office crying and she asked, "Please teach me how to drive. I need to drive; I don't want to walk anymore."

This is the situation that we are seeing. Thank God I got my license, and I have my own business. But there are a lot of people in my church who don't have licenses. And they live in fear because they don't have that privilege -- because driving is a privilege.

So why I am here is to ask you, please, pass this legislation. People need it. And it is going to be better for everybody -- not only for the people who don't have a license; also, for the people who have a license. If everybody has insurance, if everybody has the right registration, and all the paperwork that they need to have -- everybody is going to be good. We need this now, today.

Thank you for listening to me. I'll wrap it up; all I need to say is please, please, pass this legislation. People need it. Regardless of we have a lot of people who are driving without licenses, with insurance that is not really insurance. People are spending a lot of money, paying to other people to get insurance, to get registration in PA. They are paying thousands of dollars -- and when they have an accident, they don't have insurance. They have to pay for it, because they don't have insurance. Because they need it, so we need to do something.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you very much.

That's going to conclude our panels.

I will read into the record the individuals who signed in, and I will announce what position, with no need to testify.

Rohn Hein, UU Legislative Ministry, in favor, no need to testify; Gabriel Leon, in favor, no need to testify; Enrique Palomino, Peruvians for Progress, in favor, no need to testify; Jose Moron, SATA (*sic*) Lucy, in favor, no need to testify; Mercedes Azuley, in favor, no need to testify; Carmen Rosa Baca, in favor, no need to testify; Pedro Ramos, Santa Lucy, in favor, no need to testify; Gina Cheva, in favor, no need to testify; Dena Mottola Jaborska, New Jersey Citizen Action, in favor, no need to testify; Reverend Craig Hirshberg, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, in favor, no need to testify; Joyce Campbell, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, in favor, no need to testify; Yajaira Bernal Cristobal, in favor, no need to testify; Glorious Jimenez, in favor, no need to testify; Denise Campbell, in favor, no need to testify; Herlinda Chavez, in favor, no need to testify; and Mixtzin Areli Melo Medina, in favor, no need to testify.

Carlos Peralta, Angels for Action, in favor, no need to testify; Jessica Escala, Consulado General del Ecuador, in favor, no need to testify; Cornelio Melendrez, in favor, no need to testify; Josbin Daniel Barrera Teo, in favor, no need to testify; Edgar Melendrez, in favor, no need to testify; Albino Jimenez, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Jurero Medina, in favor, no need to testify; Gloria Blanco, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; and Lucero Medina, in favor, no need to testify.

Wilson Chapla, in favor, no need to testify; Blas Humberto Hernandez, in favor, no need to testify; Señor Melendez, in favor, no need to testify; Marca Villasis, in favor, no need to testify; Carmela Azza, Faith in New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Francisco Norlasco, Iglesia Emmanuel, in favor, no need to testify; Jose Danilo Saquicne, Iglesia

Emmanuel, in favor, no need to testify; Mario Augusto Ramirez, in favor, no need to testify; and Lilian Palacios, in favor, no need to testify.

Jaime Lima, in favor, no need to testify; Efrain Muniz Campos, in favor, no need to testify; Victor Manuel Gutierrez, Make the Road, in favor, no need to testify; Tomasa Lopez, in favor, no need to testify; Gloria Buitrago, Viento del Espiritu -- Wind of the Spirit -- in favor, no need to testify; Brian Lazero, Wind of the Spirit; Fernando Reyes, San José Pro-Cathedral, in favor, no need to testify; Yolanda Mejia, in favor, no need to testify; Eufracia Mora, St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, in favor, no need to testify; Luciana Soler, San José Pro-Cathedral, in favor, no need to testify; Martha Tenecela, San Joseph, in favor, no need to testify; and Zoraida Ossa, in favor, no need to testify.

Perla Navarrete, San José Pro-Cathedral, in favor, no need to testify; Crystal Rihau, Casa de Esperanza, in favor, no need to testify; Magali Serrano Montesinos, Casa de Esperanza, in favor, no need to testify; Jose Gusman, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Teresa Cristobal, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Paguay, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Santiago, Driving Faith New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Teresa Ordonez, Centro Social 15 de Agosto, in favor, no need to testify; and Adriana Mejia, in favor, no need to testify.

Lesly Silverio, AMAREU, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Alexandra DeRonde, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Osono, in favor, no need to testify; Jose L. Torralba, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Reginaldo Perez, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Miriam Mijangos, Casa Freehold, in favor, no need to testify; and Chia-

Chia Wang, American Friends Service Committee, in favor, no need to testify.

Carmelita Martinez, Divine Mercy, in favor, no need to testify; Carmen Vargas, Divine Mercy Rahway, in favor, no need to testify; Glenda Yarett Fonez, Viento del Espíritu -- Wind of the Spirit -- in favor, no need to testify; Maritsa Loaiza, Divine Mercy, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Velez, Devine Mercy, in favor, no need to testify; Manuel Cuya, PICO/Faith, in favor, no need to testify; Angela Castro, Divine Mercy, in favor, no need to testify; Claudia Usma, in favor, no need to testify; Rafael Trinidad, in favor, no need to testify; Jose Luis Ruiz, in favor, no need to testify; Claudia Piña, in favor, no need to testify; Maria Venegas, Make the Road New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Manuel Sanchez, Viento del Espíritu, in favor, no need to testify; Yolanda Ramos, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Olga Fernandez, Make the Road New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Ricardo Solorzano, Make the Road New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Michaelene Loughlin, First Friends, in favor, no need to testify; and Ruby Cribbin, First Friends New Jersey and New York, in favor, no need to testify

Licia Lituma, in favor, no need to testify; Miguel Condo, in favor, no need to testify; Jacob Morales, Faith New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Rafael Santiago, Faith New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Julio G. Sanchez, Faith, in favor, no need to testify; Dinora Diaz, Abriendo Caminos New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Alida Atencio, Make the Road New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; and Miguel Vasquez, Abriendo Caminos New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify.

Pedro Atenco, in favor, no need to testify; Sister Veronica Roche, CCOP/Faith in New Jersey, in favor, no need to testify; Edison Vasquez, Make the Road, in favor, no need to testify; Stuart Sydenstricker, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; Luis Barrera, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify; and the last one, Estefani Orosco, Wind of the Spirit, in favor, no need to testify.

Can you read the substitute?

MS. HOLLAND: Sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: And what it does? Thanks.

MS. HOLLAND: The Assembly Committee substitute for Assembly Bill 4425 establishes the New Jersey Safe and Responsible Driver Act, which establishes driver's licenses for New Jersey residents who cannot prove lawful presence in the United States.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Can I have a--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: I'll make a motion to--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: May I have a motion to substitute?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: I'll make the motion to move the substitution.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I first need a motion to substitute.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Well, okay. I was making a motion to substitute; sorry.

I'll make a motion to substitute.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need a second.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: I second the motion.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to substitute Assembly Bill 4425, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: This is just on the substitution?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Motion to substitute only.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: That's fine.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Russo.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUSSO: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Egan Jones.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Yes.

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Yes.

May I have a motion to release the substitution?

MS. HOLLAND: Sure; the bill is substituted.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: I'll make a motion to release the substitute.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: I will second that motion.

MS. HOLLAND: On the motion to release the Committee's substitute for Assembly Bill 4425, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: May I make some comments before we do?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Go ahead.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: This is an issue that I know impacts every person sitting in this room today. And I want you to be aware, we have listened to what you've had to say and understand a lot of the predicaments and a lot of the hardships that your families have had as a result of not having driver's licenses.

As a lawmaker, I take very seriously, on every Committee, unintended consequences of things that we sometimes move forward. So I've provided to the Chairwoman some ideas, some suggestions, some things that I've thought about over the past several days to try to mitigate some of the concerns that I have.

This is the Homeland Security Committee. We do live in a time where terrorists did slaughter over 128 innocent people in Paris on Friday. You have seen documents that they had gotten -- that were not them. There are some real issues, and some real concerns that I do have pertaining to those issues. And some of the things that I would like to see in any future iterations of this bill include things such as fingerprinting applicants, providing proof of residence -- that you've actually lived in New Jersey for an extended period of time. We can't build a wall around New Jersey, nor do I think anybody wants to. But we also don't want to be the only state that is saying, "Okay, if you don't have driving privileges, and if you are here illegally, come to New Jersey and you can get all these things."

I think it's important for this bill that there be a waiting period to allow the proper checks and balances to take place. That, with respect to the driver's license, that if one were to be issued, that it's unequivocal that somebody can't get onto an airplane with this particular thing; and that it's

not just hidden in tiny little letters, but that people understand what it is actually there to mean.

There's another provision in this that any personal information that is used can't be disclosed for any reason unless it's probable cause or a valid warrant. And I understand the rationale behind that. But I think that if we do do criminal background checks or fingerprinting, and an open warrant were to come up, or if somebody does appear on the terror watch list -- that there should be an affirmative obligation to immediately alert the proper authorities that somebody who tried to get a driver's license in New Jersey appeared on one of these lists.

So those are some of the things that I've given over to the Chairwoman. For today, I am a "no." But I'll continue to hear what people have to say on this.

So thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblyman Russo.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUSSO: I'm a "no."

I just wanted to say something to the Chairwoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUSSO: I think you should be commended for putting this bill in; I happen to personally believe the Transportation Committee is where it should have normally gone -- but that's not always what we have a say in. I know it's Homeland Security, so we have to take this obviously very seriously.

This is a serious issue, and it warrants a serious discussion. I found troubling one of the things I heard, which is absolutely, unfortunately, true. I believe Mr. Brown testified, and he's right. This becomes-- This is really a Federal issue, and the problem is you have 50 states. And is the Federal government ever going to -- whatever the word *comprehensive* means -- deal with these issues on a comprehensive basis? Because some of us who are here, who have -- let's put it this way -- less faith, maybe, in the system than folks who are here, and less faith in the government sometimes-- I have a difficulty with any individual, in this case, who's undocumented -- from any country, Madam Chairwoman -- trusting that we're going to give all this information to the government, and the government, then, won't turn around and do something else with it.

Now, I know when Assemblywoman Schepisi talks about *unintended consequences*, I know we were talking before, and I know you agreed with the voting issue. And that's a good point. But there are other, more devious issues involved here, where people-- We would like people to all be documented, or have the right to do that. And we can only deal with certain of those issues here; we can't deal with all of them, because they're Federal. And you're creating real problems with inaction. And again, practically, states are starting to do this, piecemeal, in different ways -- which is probably, in total, not the best solution. But it's a reaction to nothing happening above us, and having an entire system where you have folks relying on the government and not relying on the government. And it's not a good system. This is not good; this has to be corrected.

I don't think this is exactly the way to do it, but I think this is a first good step. It's the first bill I've seen discussed like this here. And I think that is a great thing.

I think the Assemblywoman is right -- there are some things that have to be done with this. And maybe this is something that the entire Assembly and the entire Senate should be looking at, at this point, because it is a big issue. And, as we heard before, one year ago the President acted, and we still haven't seen any action from the two parties, federally.

So we can only do what we can do in New Jersey. Sure, it is a little bit anomalous when we talk about legalizing things that are illegal. But that's, unfortunately, the practicality of what this has come to. And it's a real problem.

So I'm "no" for now, but I do think you should be commended for putting the bill in. And I think it's a good discussion, and I think we should all take this very seriously.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you very much.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Pinkin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PINKIN: Well, I would-- I thank the Chairwoman for putting this bill up. I do agree with the people who discussed the issues of the Federal laws, and the fact that we have a conflict at the State and Federal level. The law allows a state to take action on driver's licenses. I think that the issue of immigration, as my peers have said, has not been addressed adequately.

I went to my mayors; and one of my towns, Edison, is one of the fifth largest towns in the state -- is the fifth-largest town. And I also went to the mayors in surrounding townships, which are also very large, and

asked them, "What is your opinion? How does this impact you?" And they said the same thing -- that there is a Federal law; we are-- Citizens want to adhere to the law, but we have a conflict. And what their opinion was, if they're dealing with the issues every day, within their community, with addressing the issues of having-- First of all, we have an inadequate transportation system; we have people who are driving illegally, people who are putting themselves and other people in harm's way. We have people who are riding on bicycles, on highways, at 10 o'clock at night when they can't be seen; people who are ending up in the hospital because they are having accidents.

So this bill addresses these things. And I think that-- You know, it's just a point that we are at in order to be able to allow people to drive who are here. And I have a driver's license from another country; I went to go on vacation, I applied, I got a driver's license. So I think somebody did mention that -- what does really tie a driver's license to citizenship, and to working legally in the country? They are separate things, and this is one way that we're trying to address all these concerns.

And I appreciate the Chairwoman for taking up such a very complicated and difficult issue; and I do think having it in Homeland Security mirrors the Federal government. And it doesn't matter whether it's Transportation or Homeland Security; it's still really trying to address the issue. But under the Federal legislation, when they're considering the access to airports and things like that, that, in reference to driver's licenses, was considered under Homeland Security -- so I feel comfortable with that.

But I vote "yes" on this.

Thank you.

MS. HOLLAND: Assemblywoman Egan Jones.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Thank you.

I, too, want to thank the Chairwoman for bringing this to the forefront today. And I thank my colleagues -- both the ones seated next to me and those across the room -- for their concerns about it.

I am going to be a "yes." I have seen no harm done in the other states where this has already occurred. I am sorry that New Jersey is late in the game, actually. I always like to think of my state as a leader.

I know that evildoers will hide in the shadows no matter what we do, and that most of us are safer when we allow people who are good, decent, and honest, and here to raise their families; some of whom, we heard from today, need an avenue to feel as though they're a part of us. Because unless we start reaching across every aisle we can find, and share the burdens together, and move forward together, we're never going to get the folks in Washington to pay attention.

It is unfortunate that they have been caught in gridlock this long. I am sure happy to go on anybody's bus down there and kind of try to cajole them, entertain them, and appeal to them. This is truly common sense. It's going to make your ability to drive better. I was scared to death when I forgot my driver's license. I have no issue, but I didn't want anybody to stop me and ask me about it. I cannot imagine if my family depended on me not getting stopped, how I would feel, the fear I would feel. It would make me behave in a very inappropriate way, I am sure.

God bless all of you for being here. Thank you for your testimony. I thank those of you who feel it's not appropriate, for being here

as well. We need to hear from everybody on all these avenues, because we need to hear each other and move forward together.

God bless you, thank you.

“Yes” again. (applause)

MS. HOLLAND: Chairwoman Quijano.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: Thank you.

Assemblywoman Egan Jones, I want to welcome you to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: We got started right into the issues--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN EGAN JONES: Yes, we did.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: --and we didn't do what we should have done right in the beginning. So thank you so much for joining the Committee. You bring a different perspective, and a welcome perspective.

First of all, I want to tell you that I thought we had a great conversation today. We heard from people who were for the bill, and people who had concerns about the bill. But that's what makes legislation great -- by hearing all sides and coming up with legislation that addresses the issues.

Assemblywoman Schepisi -- I always call you by your first name; I have to be formal -- I want to thank you for the issues you brought up; I will look at them. Assemblyman Russo, I will look at the issues, and thank you.

I want to thank everyone who took the day off to come here. It's not that often that we see our Committee room this full, and we even had to change our room just to try to accommodate more people.

This issue is important to me; I think safety on the New Jersey roadways and highways is important, and I will continue to work on this bill.

So thank you; and with that, my vote is "yes." (shouts and applause)

MS. HOLLAND: The Committee substitute is released.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: I need you-- We need it to be put in the record -- what the vote was. So let us put it in the record.

MS. HOLLAND: The Committee substitute is released.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIJANO: The bill passes. (shouts and applause)

(MEETING CONCLUDED)