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The Gamaliel Foundation in Wisconsin

WISDOM's WISCONSIN SAFE ROADS CAMPAIGN

The 2006 federal "Real ID" legislation forces states to require a social security number of anyone who applies for a driver's license. Thousands of undocumented immigrants around the country lost the ability to drive legally. However, the same federal legislation gives states the authority to offer *driver's cards* to undocumented people as long as the *card* can't be confused with a *license*. The card couldn't be used for a federal ID – can't be used to board an airplane or get a passport – but could be used to drive legally and to purchase insurance. WISDOM is part of a campaign to make driver's cards available to undocumented people in Wisconsin.

WHY DRIVING CARDS IS A GOOD IDEA

- Denying driver's licenses to the undocumented population jeopardizes public safety and drives up insurance rates.
 - Without driver's licenses, people are unable to acquire auto insurance, and many times cannot access proper driver's education.
 - Driver's license restrictions cause immigrants to avoid contact with state and local law enforcement. This means that immigrants are unwilling to report crimes and assist local law enforcement in community policing activities. This decreases community trust and undermines efforts to fight crime and save lives.
- Restricting driver's licenses hurts Wisconsin families, communities and economy.
 - Immigrants make countless positive contributions to Wisconsin communities, schools, churches, economy, and culture. To get to work, school, shopping, etc. people are now forced to drive without a license or with false documents.
 - Insurance and automotive industries have lost the business of thousands of immigrants who no longer have licenses, and the state DMV has lost the financial contribution of people who are now denied access its services.
- Driver's license restrictions won't fix our broken immigration system.
 - Congress must act to pass a comprehensive immigration bill that brings undocumented immigrants out of the shadows. In the meantime, states must pass responsible policies that protect everyone's public safety.
- Offering Drivers Cards helps the state budget
 - The Wisconsin Transportation Department estimates that offering Drivers Cards to qualified undocumented residents would generate \$1,776,800 in FY 2009-10 and \$1,976,800 in FY 2010-11 for the state budget from permit fees and driving skills test fees.

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