

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON SUPPORTING THE ISSUANCE OF DRIVER'S LICENSES TO NEW YORK STATE RESIDENTS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

WHEREAS, many New York residents are denied access to driver's licenses solely because of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, these New York residents urgently need these licenses in order to lawfully drive to their places of work, buy groceries and essential supplies, take their children to school, travel to appointments, attend religious worship, or get to the hospital or other medical facility in case of emergency; and

WHEREAS, licensing all drivers improves public safety by ensuring that everyone driving on our roads is knowledgeable about vehicle and traffic laws through the licensing process, and is operating a registered, inspected, and insured vehicle; and

WHEREAS, licensed drivers who become involved in traffic incidents are more likely to aid police and emergency workers and to engage in the exchange of necessary information with other motorists, and those who witness incidents and crimes are more comfortable reporting them to the police and cooperating in investigations; and

WHEREAS, allowing New York residents to obtain a driver's license regardless of immigration status would mean an increase in revenue for New York State from license, registration and other associated fees and taxes; and

WHEREAS, removing immigration status barriers to driver's licenses assists in the reduction of accidents involving uninsured motorists, leading to lower auto insurance premiums for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Vermont and the District of Columbia already provide access to licenses for all residents regardless of immigration status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson hereby expresses its collective desire for safety and security for all Hastings-on-Hudson residents and, further, its commitment to pursuing the common good by ensuring shared resources such as roads and highways be accessed and utilized responsibly and safely; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson recognizes immigration law to be a federal concern, and enforcement a drain on limited local resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson calls upon the New York State legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo to promptly ensure the issuance of driver's licenses to all New York State residents regardless of immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk shall forward a true copy of this Resolution duly endorsed to reflect its enactment by the Board of Trustees to the Executive Chamber of Governor Andrew Cuomo, to New York Assembly Representative Thomas Abinanti, and to New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins