Widen the Road: Allowing All Immigrants Access to Driver Licenses Is a Win for Wisconsin

Allowing all immigrants to obtain driver licenses would positively benefit everyone in Wisconsin—children, families, communities, and the economy. So what would happen if all immigrants had access to driver licenses, without regard to immigration status?

Wisconsin drivers could see savings of $16 million in auto insurance premiums every year.

Insurance companies could see increased revenue of $13 million a year.

More money is put back into the local economy as those with driver licenses are more likely to work and spend money.

Wisconsin roads become safer as licensed drivers become more knowledgeable about traffic and road laws.

Improving access to licenses would improve the well-being of Wisconsin children and families. An estimated 32,000 Wisconsin residents who are undocumented would get licenses if barriers were removed. Of the undocumented residents who would get licenses, 14,000 live with children and would be able to better care and provide for them.

A lack of access to driver’s licenses is not limited to undocumented individuals. Low-income US citizens have also been affected by stringent laws that penalize those who do not have the funds to pay their traffic and parking tickets. In 2017, 56% of license suspensions were due to unpaid fines rather than infractions related to unsafe driving. These harsh practices have disproportionately criminalized Black and Latinx drivers.