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A resolution by Supervisors Ortiz-Velez and Johnson, Jr., requesting the Governor and State Legislature include provisions in the 2019-2021 Biennial State Budget, or introduce a standalone bill, permitting full driver’s license access to all Wisconsin residents, regardless of immigration status or fines imposed, by recommending adoption of the following:

**AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin (the State) requires United States (U.S.) citizenship or legal residence to obtain a State identification card or driver’s license; and

WHEREAS, in today’s society, many communities lack adequate public transportation, creating barriers for people to attend to their basic needs, including:

- Commuting to work
- Taking children to school
- Shopping for food, clothes, and other necessities
- Going to clinics and hospitals for medical visits
- Visiting places of worship

; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau reported in the 2017 American Community Survey that approximately 85 percent of Milwaukee County residents regularly drove to work; and

WHEREAS, Kids Forward, formerly the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, reports in the November 2018 Wisconsin Budget Project document, “Widen the Road: Removing Barriers to Driver License Eligibility Will Improve Safety, Support Families, and Boost Businesses,” that removing State restrictions regarding driving licensure would:

- Facilitate undocumented immigrants driving further to reach more distant employment locales
- Improve overall driver safety by allowing undocumented immigrants to undergo the requisite tests to obtain a license
- Lower insurance premiums statewide, by approximately \$16 million, via enlarging the pool of insured persons by approximately 28,000
- Raise an additional \$2 million toward State transportation objectives from the annual vehicle registration fee

; and

46 WHEREAS, according to the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism  
47 (WCIJ), more than half of Wisconsin dairy workers are immigrants, and the WCIJ  
48 reported one farmer saying, “I’ve been to those villages where our [immigrant workers]  
49 are from – and they sent us their best”; and

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51 WHEREAS, California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia,  
52 Maryland, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Washington, and Vermont have no driving  
53 licensure restrictions for undocumented immigrants; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, under Section 343.05(3-5), Wisconsin State Statutes, drivers  
56 penalized without a license may incur hundreds of dollars in misdemeanor fines; and  
57 according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, in 2017 the state suspended  
58 more than 200,000 Wisconsin drivers for failing to pay fines, and otherwise law abiding  
59 and taxpaying residents need not help clog an overburdened court system; and

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61 WHEREAS, ensuring all Wisconsinites access to driver's licenses will facilitate  
62 the identification of people for law enforcement, including for victims, witnesses, and  
63 alleged perpetrators; and

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65 WHEREAS, all residents of Wisconsin should have equal access to driver's  
66 licenses; and

67  
68 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its  
69 meeting of March 7, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-273 as amended  
70 (vote 3-2); now, therefore,

71  
72 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) requests the Governor of the  
73 State of Wisconsin (the State) and the State Legislature include provisions in the 2019-  
74 2021 Biennial State Budget, or introduce a standalone bill, regarding:

- 75  
76
  - Restoration of access to driver’s licenses for all Wisconsin residents
  - 77 regardless of immigration status
  - 78 • Cessation of suspending driver’s licenses for those unable to pay fines for
  - 79 minor non-driving offenses

80  
81 ; and

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83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County supports the proposal by the  
84 Governor of the State in Assembly Bill 56, the 2019-2021 Wisconsin Executive Budget,  
85 to extend eligibility for driver licenses and identification cards for undocumented  
86 individuals subsequent to fulfillment of State skills and knowledge standards; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests the County Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the offices of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Assembly Minority Leader, the Senate Majority Leader, the Senate Minority Leader, and any State legislator who represents all or part of the County.

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03/07/19  
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