

Your presence is important – it matters!!

Join us at the State Public Forum being held on the need for a Nebraska Driver's Certificate. The Forum is a result of OTOC's work with State Senators to pass Resolution 355 (LR355). LR355 requires a study of this issue as a joint effort between the Judiciary Committee and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature.

Public Forum on Nebraska Drivers' Certificates
Monday, Oct. 23rd
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Metro Community College – South Campus
Room 119, Industrial Training Center Building
2909 Ed Babe Gomez Ave.

The benefit to all Nebraskans in terms of safety on our highways and fair insurance premiums is clear. The benefit to all the corporations who rely on immigrant labor is huge. To the workers and their families, this is a critical issue of justice.

Information on the need for a Nebraska Driver Certificate. Until a few years ago, any person residing in Nebraska could study the laws and take the test to earn a driver's license, enabling them to purchase auto insurance and drive legally on our streets and highways. In 2003 federal legislation forced all states to require a current social security number in order to obtain a drivers license, leaving many recent immigrants (both documented and undocumented) without the ability to drive legally or purchase insurance. As each year passes, more undocumented immigrants are without a license, as their past valid driver license expires and they are unable to renew it (or their insurance). This presents a huge challenge to the large immigrant work force which keeps our Omaha economy running, as they have difficulty driving legally to their jobs and their children to school, and are exposed to more harassment from law enforcement. It becomes a safety issue on our streets with larger numbers of unlicensed drivers, and increases the "uninsured motorist" premium on everyone else's auto insurance rates.

Certainly the U.S. immigration laws are in need of overhaul; it will take federal action to do this, and we have a stake in the outcome. Federal law provides states the ability to issue a "drivers certificate" in order to purchase auto insurance. Nebraska can address this motor safety issue with state law, just as states like Washington, and New Mexico already have: by issuing a "Driver's Certificate" to residents without a social security number who pass the testing requirements. This certificate cannot be used as an identification document, but allows legal driving and purchase of automobile insurance.