



**Senate State Affairs Committee
HB1274 Hearing
Supplemental Materials**

1. HB1274 Factsheet
2. I Drive CO HB1274 Petition Signature Map
3. Colorado Fiscal Institute Report: The Impact of Allowing All Immigrants Access to Driver's Licenses
4. National Immigration Law Center Fact Sheet: Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
5. Social Security Administration: Learn What Documents You Need to Get a Social Security Card for Noncitizens



Improving Colorado's license & ID program for Colorado residents who are undocumented.

Why does this Matter?

The full implementation of the SB251 Driver's License program means safer communities & roads for all Coloradans.

"As successfully shown in other states, the percentage of licensed & insured drivers on the road increases with their access to a legitimate driver's license. Law enforcement is able to identify & hold licensed drivers responsible for traffic violations. Hit & run accidents are reduced, & damage is more likely covered by insurance. This bill is good for all of the motoring public, not just the recipient of the license".

~Sheriff Joe Pellè

We're a stronger Colorado when all our residents feel confident to report crimes they've been victims of or witnessed. Having a driver's license also allows undocumented Coloradans to better support the basic needs of their family, many of whom are citizens or permanent residents.

A licenses program passed in 2013, what's the problem now?

- *The politics:* Last year some members of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) denied the Department of Revenue's (DOR) spending authority request to further implement the self-funded SB251 Driver's License program. The JBC decision prevented the DOR from spending the fees it had already collected from the community, reduced the number of offices from five to three and left thousands trying, and unable, to schedule an appointment.
- *The cap:* The JBC's decision created a cap at 66,000 appointments total, underestimating the population of people eligible for SB251 appointments. The JBC chose the most conservative participation estimate of 30% even though the participation rate for Colorado was consistently above 70%. When the cap is reached, the SB251 program will only be offered at one DMV Office- just 31 appointments per day. The DMV estimates the cap will be met in October 2017.
- *Unintended Barriers:* The Social Security Administration, in earlier times, under previous visas or other temporary policies, has issued to some Coloradans who are undocumented a valid Social Security Number. The current SB251 program only applies to undocumented individuals with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, leaving out those who have a valid SSN. With renewals beginning in August 2017, and no clear process for renewals or replacement ID's, many community members fear being left without ID once again. The bill ensures all can access an appointment and replace their ID.

What's the Solution?

On February 18, 2016 Representative Jonathan Singer introduced HB16-1274 in response to concerns raised by the I Drive Colorado campaign. The bill will:

- *Honor the intent of SB251:* Coloradans with temporary status or who are undocumented have paid triple fees for almost three years to self-fund the SB251 program. This bill will honor that by increasing the SB 251 spending authority of the DOR. The DMV will be able to offer more SB251 appointment services at more offices, *paid for out of the additional fees collected from applicants.*
- *Eliminating the cap:* The bill will eliminate the footnote of 66,000 cap, allowing the program to be responsive and flexible in response to Colorado's residents.
- *Streamlining the process:* The bill explains and addresses the acceptance of valid Social Security Numbers and clarifies the renewal and replacement processes.

For more info: www.facebook.com/idrivecolorado

To get involved: Text @IDriveColorado to 23559

Share your story <http://bit.ly/iDriveCO>

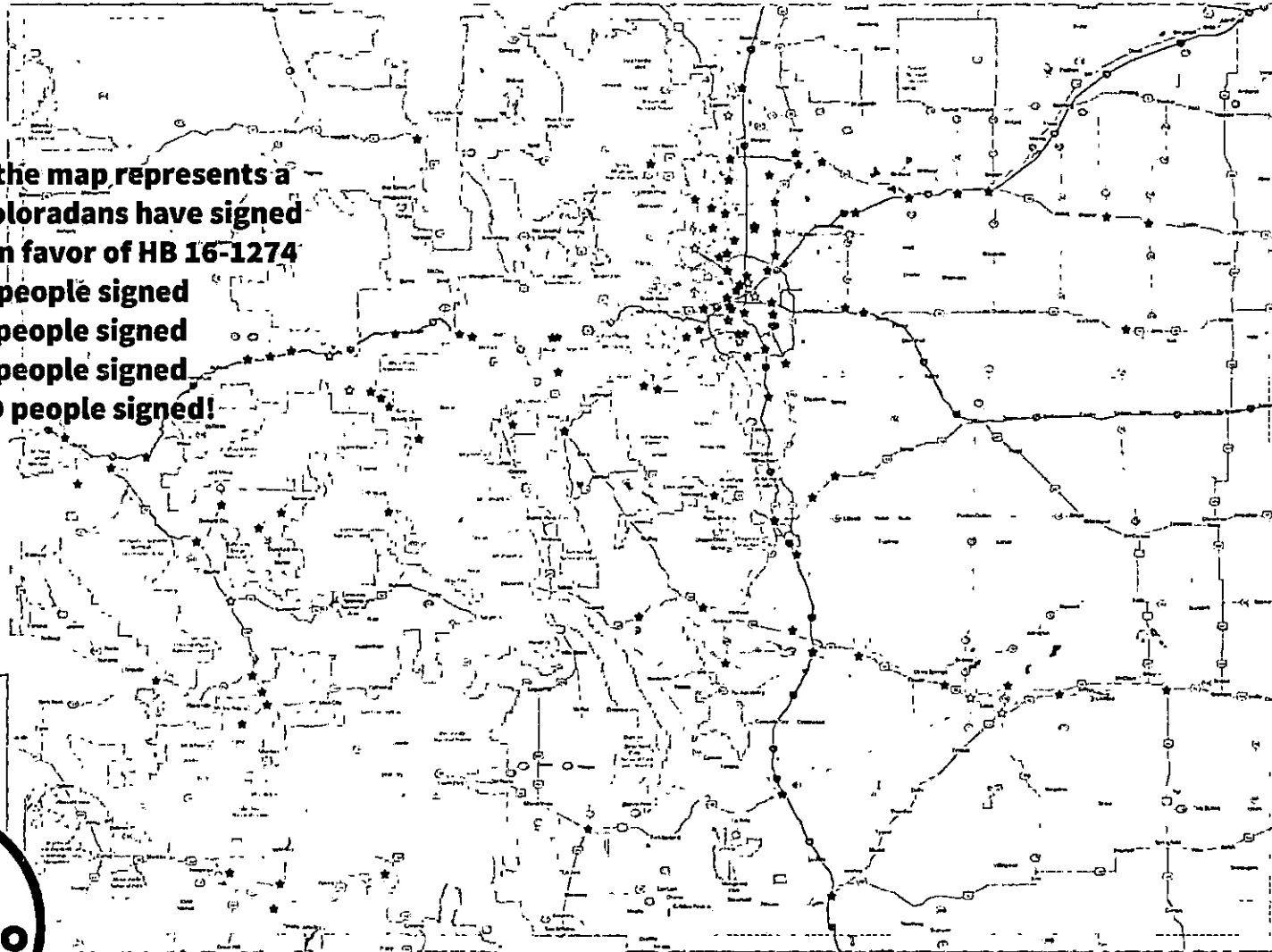
The I Drive Colorado Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive Colorado is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and Identification documents.

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT FOR HB 16-1274

Legend

Each star on the map represents a city where Coloradans have signed the petition in favor of HB 16-1274

- ★ 1-10 people signed
- ☆ 11-31 people signed
- ☆ 32-66 people signed
- ☆ 67-809 people signed!



KEEP COLORADOR ROADS SAFE! #iDriveCO



The Impact of Allowing All Immigrants Access to Driver's Licenses

March 2015

- Providing driver's licenses to all immigrants makes Colorado roads safer and results in greater savings in automobile insurance premiums for all Colorado drivers. Licensed drivers become more knowledgeable about traffic and road laws, purchase insurance and register their vehicles.

Under current law, funding for a program that makes driver's licenses available to undocumented immigrants has to be reauthorized every year. The Colorado Fiscal Institute believes the economic and social benefits of providing driver's licenses to all immigrants far outweigh the administrative costs of the program.

Colorado's unlicensed immigrants facts

- Prior to the passage of the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act (SB 13-251) in 2013, 168,400 unlicensed immigrants were ineligible for driver's licenses in Colorado. Due to the reduction in the size of the program and lack of funding, many are still waiting to get their driver's licenses.
- An estimated 16.2 percent of all Coloradans are driving without insurance. However, unlike other uninsured motorists, unlicensed immigrant motorists lack insurance because they are unable to purchase any without a license in Colorado. These unlicensed immigrants make up about a quarter of all Colorado's uninsured motorists.
- Colorado drivers could see savings of \$29.5 million in insurance premiums every year when all immigrants are able to get driver's licenses and purchase car insurance.
- Insurance companies and the state could also experience increased revenue. In order to register a car, an individual must purchase insurance and can only do so with a license. Insurance companies could see increased revenue of \$113.1 million annually. In addition, many of these drivers will begin to register their vehicles, and new revenue for state and local governments could range from \$5.3 million to \$6.9 million.

Overall economic benefits of providing driver's licenses to all immigrants

Those with driver's licenses are more likely to work and spend, participating more broadly in Colorado's economy according to a 2011 study from the Oregon Department of Transportation.¹

- Lack of access to driver's licenses means that immigrants spend more time trying to get around and less time working and putting dollars back into the local economy. In fact, most are less likely to make purchases in general due to a lack of safe access to transportation.
- Licensed drivers are more likely to purchase larger items such as homes, vehicles or household appliances.

¹ Oregon Department of Transportation, Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of SB 1080 on Immigrant Groups, June 2011
http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP_RES/docs/reports/2011/sb1080.pdf

Other states had success enabling undocumented immigrants to receive licenses

- **New Mexico:** Since the state began issuing licenses in 2003, the rate of uninsured vehicles decreased almost 24 percentage points, from 33 percent in 2002 to 9.1 percent in 2011.² What's even more impressive is that alcohol-related crashes decreased 32 percent and traffic fatalities fell 23 percent.³
- **Utah:** The state began issuing licenses in 1999, and in 2005 began issuing Driving Privilege Cards. Of the 50,000 undocumented immigrant motorists in Utah, approximately 42,000 have Driving Privilege Cards (DPC).⁴ This caused Utah's uninsured motorist rate to drop from 28 percent to 8 percent. DPC holders have an insurance coverage rate of 75 percent.⁵

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² <http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/07/09/news/effects-on-insurance-unclear.html> (Note: there is some conflicting research from the Insurance Research Council) *see also*: "Effects on Insurance Unclear," Albuquerque Journal, July, 9, 2012, <http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/07/09/news/effects-on-insurance-unclear.html>;

³ University of New Mexico, Division of Government Research, <http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/reports/annual/annrept02.pdf> and <http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/reports/annual/ar2010-9-19-2012draft.pdf>.

⁴ Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, "Determining the impact of unlicensed immigrant motorists in Illinois," 2012

⁵ *Ibid*

Methodology

Estimated number of unlicensed immigrant drivers

The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that 180,000 undocumented immigrants (3.6 percent of the total population) live in Colorado in 2010.⁶ Since 2010, the economy in Colorado has seen steady improvement with unemployment levels returning to pre-Recession levels.⁷ As more jobs are created in industries such as the hospitality and construction, we assume that the undocumented immigrant population has also grown. Adjusting for the growth in Colorado's population, we estimate that 190,000 undocumented immigrants currently live in the state.

In order to estimate the number of undocumented immigrants that would be eligible and take advantage of driver's licenses, we assume that the majority of undocumented immigrants that would qualify for the program are between the ages of 16 and 75. The Colorado Department of Revenue estimates that in 2010, there were 3,638,374 licensed drivers.⁸ Adjusting for growth of the total population aged 16 and older, we estimate that there are 3,849,557 licensed drivers in Colorado in 2013.⁹

In addition, using data from the American Community Survey, we find that in 2013, 90.2 percent of noncitizen immigrants in Colorado were between the ages of 16 and 75. In comparison, only 73.3 percent of U.S. citizens (naturalized and native-born) are between the ages of 16 and 75. The age distribution of undocumented immigrants is different than in the U.S.-born population, with a smaller share of children and elderly than either the legal immigrant or the U.S.-born population.¹⁰ We use the noncitizen population as a proxy for undocumented immigrants. We also estimate that 98.3 percent of Coloradans between 16 and 75 currently hold a driver's license.¹¹ This analysis finds that approximately 168,400 undocumented immigrants would make use of the driver's license program.

190,000 undocumented immigrants

X 90.2% share of noncitizen immigrants in Colorado between 16 and 75

171,349 undocumented immigrants that would be eligible for a driver's license

3,916,770 total population 16-75 years of age

/ 3,849,557 total licensed drivers

98.28% share of those between 16 and 75 in Colorado with a driver's license

X 171,349 undocumented immigrants that would be eligible for a driver's license

168,402 undocumented immigrants that will get a license.

Estimated uninsured and insured vehicles in Colorado

⁶ Pew Hispanic Center, "Unauthorized Immigrant Population" February 1, 2011; <http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/133.pdf>

⁷ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Colorado Economy at a Glance; <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.co.htm>

⁸ Colorado Department of Transportation, Transportation FactBook 2011; <https://www.codot.gov/topcontent/FactBook>

⁹ United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013, 1 year estimates

¹⁰ Passel, Jeffrey S., and Cohn, D'Vera (2009) *A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States*. Washington DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

¹¹ Colorado Fiscal Institute analysis of ACS 2013 PUMS data

In order to estimate insurance savings we first estimate the total number of unlicensed drivers. The Insurance Research Council reports that 16.2 percent of Colorado drivers are uninsured, compared to 12.2 percent nationally.¹² This means that approximately 651,387 motorists are driving without insurance in Colorado. This figure includes those that are currently licensed but have not purchased insurance and unlicensed immigrants who are unable to purchase insurance. Of these drivers, 168,400 (or 25.9 percent) are uninsured vehicles driven by undocumented immigrants. It is important to note that the majority of uninsured drivers are those who have U.S. Citizenship or other lawful immigration status.

<p>3,849,557 drivers in Colorado + 171,349 unlicensed immigrants X 16.2% share of uninsured vehicles ----- 651,387 uninsured drivers (3,225,929 insured drivers)</p>

Accident and cost estimates

According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, Coloradans were involved in 431 fatal crashes, 9,578 injury causing crashes, and 97,599 crashes only resulting in property damage in 2013.¹³ The Insurance Research Council reported that in 2012 the average auto liability claim for bodily injury was \$14,653, and the average auto liability claim for property damage was \$3,073. The cost of accidents involving uninsured drivers is \$72.3 million annually.

<p>(431 fatal crashes + 9,578 injury) x 16.2% X \$14,653 average cost per claim ----- \$23,759,224 cost of fatal and bodily injury crashes involving uninsured drivers</p> <p>97,599 only in property damage x 16.2% X \$3,073 ----- \$48,587,320 cost related to crashes resulting only in property damage</p> <p>Total cost: \$72,346,544 cost of accidents involving uninsured drivers \$19,027,141 cost of accidents involving uninsured, immigrant drivers</p>
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Estimated total cost to insured drivers

¹² The Insurance Research Council, "New Study Reveals a Declining Trend in the Percentage of Uninsured Motorists," August 5, 2014; http://www.insurance-research.org/sites/default/files/downloads/IRC%20UM_NewsRelease_1.pdf

¹³ Colorado Department of Transportation, Traffic and Safety, Traffic Data Unit on 3/11/2015.

A similar study conducted by Yale Law School, in conjunction with other prestigious immigration law programs across the country, found that every additional dollar increase in insurance payouts yields a \$1.55 increase in premiums.¹⁴ Providing unlicensed immigrants the opportunity to obtain driver's licenses will result in fewer accidents as they become more familiar with road rules. Therefore, providing licenses and the ability to purchase insurance to these individuals could save all Colorado motorists \$33.6 million in premiums annually.

\$72,346,544 total annual cost of accidents involving uninsured drivers
X \$1.55 increase in premiums

\$112,137,143 increase in premiums for Colorado drivers
26.3% share of Unlicensed immigrants
X \$112,137,143

\$29,492,069 increase in premiums for all Coloradans

Effect if unlicensed immigrants get licenses and insurance

Unlicensed immigrants are also currently driving without proper registration for their vehicles. In Colorado, a driver cannot obtain registration for their car without a license and insurance. Allowing undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses would increase revenue for automobile insurance companies and increase car registration revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the average expenditure per insured vehicle in Colorado was \$729 in 2008.¹⁵ That is equivalent to approximately \$802 in 2013. If undocumented immigrants purchase insurance at the same rate as all other Coloradans then 83.8 percent will purchase insurance, increasing insurance revenue by \$113.1 million annually.

168,400 undocumented immigrants that will get a license
X 83.8% purchase insurance

141,119 will purchase insurance
141,119 undocumented immigrants that will purchase insurance
X \$802

\$113,117,598 in increased insurance revenue

Currently, vehicle registration is \$41 a year. This means that if uninsured immigrants are able to get a license, they are more likely to also obtain insurance and register their vehicle. As of 2014, there were 5.4 million vehicles registered to the 3.8 million motorists in Colorado.¹⁶ This means there are 1.4 vehicles registered per driver in

¹⁴ Testimony in Support of SB 68, SB 628, and HB 6037 To Allow Undocumented Immigrants Access to Driver's Licenses <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/TRAdat/Tmy/2013HB-06037-R000304-Jerome%20N.%20Frank%20Legal%20Services%20Organization-TMY.PDF>

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 755, tbl 1223; <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s1223.pdf>

¹⁶ "Registered Vehicles by Plate Type," December 31, 2014; <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20Registered%20Vehicles%20by%20Fuel%20Type.pdf>

Colorado. As more undocumented immigrants are able to drive legally they will begin to purchase more vehicles, though it is unlikely that these individuals will stop carpooling or taking public transit altogether. In addition, many immigrants will not be able to access licenses even when made available due to other restrictions. As such, we assume that immigrants are unlikely to buy more than one vehicle and are even less likely to if they are not participating in the labor force. If we assume that only those immigrants who are participating in the labor force are purchasing vehicles (and not all 141,000 who will purchase insurance in order to drive a car) but at a lower rate than all other Coloradans, then revenue generated from motor vehicle registration fees could be as high as \$5.3 million. If we assume that everyone who is eligible for a license purchases insurance and registers one vehicle, then revenue for the state could be as high as \$6.9 million

5,430,511 vehicles currently registered in Colorado
/3,849,557 licensed motorists

1.4 cars registered per driver
If those participating in the labor force purchased cars at the same rate
130,000 undocumented immigrants participating in the labor force
X 1.4 cars per driver
X \$41 vehicle registration fees

\$5,330,000 in new vehicle registration fee revenue
168,000 undocumented immigrants x 1 car per driver x \$41 registration fees= \$6,888,000 in
new revenue

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ITIN) A Powerful Tool for Immigrant Taxpayers

Last updated JANUARY 2016

What is an ITIN?

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is a tax processing number issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). An ITIN consists of nine digits, beginning with the number nine (i.e., 9XX-XX-XXXX).¹ Since 1996, the IRS has issued ITINs to taxpayers and their dependents who are not eligible to obtain a Social Security number (SSN).

Why does the IRS issue ITINs?

All wage earners—regardless of their immigration status—are required to pay federal taxes. The IRS provides ITINs to people who are ineligible for an SSN so that they can comply with tax laws.

Who uses an ITIN?

Taxpayers who file their tax return with an ITIN include undocumented immigrants and their dependents as well as some people who are lawfully present in the U.S., such as certain survivors of domestic violence, Cuban and Haitian entrants, student visa-holders, and certain spouses and children of individuals with employment visas. As of August 2012, the IRS had assigned 21 million ITINs to taxpayers and their dependents.²

Once a person who's been issued an ITIN is eligible to apply for an SSN, he or she may no longer use the ITIN.

What is an ITIN used for?

ITINs are issued by the IRS specifically as a means to pay federal taxes. While the IRS issues them solely for this purpose, ITINs may sometimes be accepted for other purposes, such as for opening an interest-bearing bank account, in employment dispute settlements or for obtaining a mortgage.

Why do undocumented immigrants need an ITIN?

In addition to being required to pay taxes, immigrants benefit from filing income tax returns because:

- It demonstrates that they are complying with federal tax laws.
- Filing federal taxes is a way for immigrants to further contribute to the economy.

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- It is one way that people who may have an opportunity to legalize their immigration status and become U.S. citizens can prove that they have “good moral character.”
- Immigrants can use tax returns to document their work history and physical presence in the U.S. In order to be eligible for legal immigration status under any future immigration reform, people who currently are unauthorized to be in the U.S. most likely will have to be able to prove that they have been employed and have lived continuously in the U.S. for a certain number of years.
- People who file tax returns can claim crucial economic supports, such as the Child Tax Credit, including the refundable portion (also known as the Additional Child Tax Credit).³
- Filing a tax return is required in order to be able to claim premium tax credits for family members—often U.S. citizen children—who are eligible for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).⁴ These tax credits are necessary to help defray the cost of health insurance and thus make it affordable.
- Individuals who are eligible to file their taxes with an ITIN can establish that they are eligible for an exemption from the ACA’s individual mandate, which requires that people have health insurance. Undocumented immigrants are excluded from all ACA benefits, so they are not eligible to buy health insurance through the ACA’s health care marketplace, even at full cost.⁵
- Immigrant workers who receive settlement payments as a result of an employment-related dispute will be subject to the maximum tax withholding rate, unless they have an ITIN.⁶ For example, for a worker with an ITIN, the withholding on back wages paid to the worker because of a settlement will be based on the worker’s family status and the number of exemptions he or she can claim. By contrast, if the worker did *not* have an ITIN, the withholding would be figured as if the worker were single with no exemptions. Similarly, for workers without ITINs, the withholding on payments *other than* wages, e.g., on payments for punitive damages, is figured at the “backup withholding” rate of 28 percent, whereas workers who have ITINs ordinarily would have *no* withholding on such nonwage payments.

What is an ITIN *not* used for?

An ITIN does not authorize a person to work in the U.S. or provide eligibility for Social Security benefits. An ITIN does not provide a person with immigration status.

Do ITIN-filers pay taxes?

Yes! In 2010, over 3 million federal tax returns were filed with ITINs, which accounted for over \$870 million in income taxes.⁷ In the same year, over 3 million unauthorized workers, including ITIN-filers, paid over \$13 billion into Social Security.⁸

Is it safe to use an ITIN?

Generally, yes. The IRS has strong privacy protections in place to ensure that immigrants who report their income and file their taxes are not at risk of having their information shared.⁹ Under Internal Revenue Code section 6103, the IRS is generally prohibited from disclosing taxpayer information, including to other federal agencies. However, certain exceptions apply. For example, the IRS is required to disclose taxpayer information to certain U.S. Treasury Department employees when they request it for tax administration purposes or to other federal agencies if it's needed for a nontax criminal investigation and a federal court has ordered that it be provided.¹⁰

What documents must a person present when applying for an ITIN?

ITIN applicants are required to provide proof of their identity, their foreign status and residency. . In 2015, Congress codified¹¹ the IRS severe restrictions on the types of documents that new ITIN applicants may present.

In order to apply for an ITIN, the applicant must

1. complete a Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number,¹² along with his or her federal income tax return,¹³ *and*
2. prove his or her *identity* and *foreign nationality* status by providing a combination of original documents (see the table below) or certified copies of the documents. A certified document is one that the original issuing agency provides and certified as an exact copy of the original document and contains an official stamped seal from that agency. Notarized copies are *not* acceptable.

The IRS will accept only a combination of the 13 documents listed in the table below as proof of identity and/or foreign nationality status. Applicants who can present a passport have to present only one document. Otherwise, they will need to present at least two documents or certified copies of at least two documents.

Document that proves both identity and foreign status	Documents that prove only identity	Documents that prove identity or foreign status (not both)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Passport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Driver's license issued in the U.S. ✓ Foreign driver's license ✓ Identification card issued by a state within the U.S. ✓ U.S. military identification card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services photo identification ✓ Visa issued by the U.S. Department of State ✓ Foreign military identification card ✓ National identification card (must be current and include

		<p>photo, name, address, date of birth, and expiration date)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Foreign voter registration card ✓ Civil birth certificate ✓ Medical records (only for dependents under age 6) ✓ School records (only for dependents under age 14 or under age 18 if a student)
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How does an applicant file for an ITIN?

An applicant can apply for an ITIN by mail, in person through a designated IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC),¹⁴ or with the help of an Acceptance Agent (AA) or a Certifying Acceptance Agent (CAA) authorized by the IRS.¹⁵ An applicant who resides outside of the U.S. may apply by mail or in person to an IRS employee or a designated U.S. diplomatic mission or consular post.

Applicants who apply for an ITIN by mail directly with the IRS must submit either the *original* of each supporting document or a *certified copy* of each supporting document. Applicants who do not want or are unable to mail their original documents or certified copies to the IRS may take them in person to a TAC or CAA to have the documents (or certified copies) verified and immediately returned to them. However, not all TACs provide ITIN-related services, or they may provide them only during restricted business hours. Because the number of TACs and CAAs is limited, many ITIN applicants simply aren't able to take their applications and documents to a TAC or CAA.

In addition, TACs are able to verify only two types of documents—passports and foreign identity cards—and CAAs are able to provide in-person verification only for primary and secondary applicants (not dependents). Given these restrictions and the fact that nearly 70 percent of dependent ITIN applicants prove their identity through birth certificates and school records (and do not have passports),¹⁶ most dependents will not have the option of having their identity documents verified in person.

How long does it take to receive an ITIN?

Outside of peak processing times (between January and April), it should take up to six weeks for an applicant to receive his or her ITIN. However, because most ITIN applications must be filed with tax returns, they are typically filed during peak processing times. As a result, it can take 8 to 10 weeks to receive an ITIN. Any original documents or certified copies submitted in support of an ITIN application will be returned within 65 days. If you do not receive your original and certified documents within 65 days of mailing them to the IRS, you may call 1-800-908-9982.¹⁷

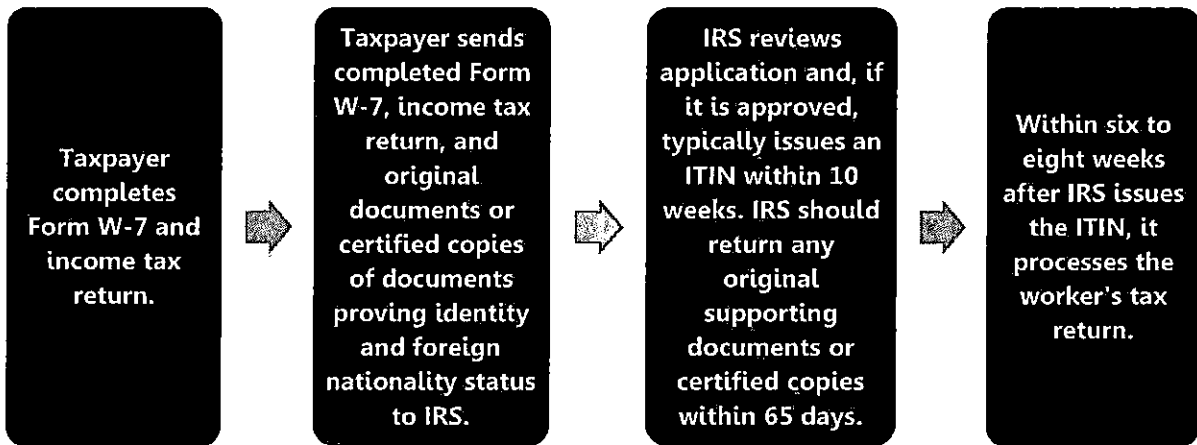
After the ITIN application has been approved, the IRS will process the tax return within 6 to 8 weeks.

Processing ITIN applications¹⁸

All ITIN applications are processed by the ITIN unit in the IRS Submission Processing Center in Austin, Texas. Tax returns attached to the application are sent for processing. Tax examiners in the ITIN unit review ITIN applications and supporting documentation. Based on the tax examiner’s review, the application will either be:

- **Assigned:** The IRS mails a notice with the assigned ITIN to the applicant.
- **Rejected:** The IRS mails a notice informing the individual that the ITIN application was rejected, the reason for the rejection and that they must file another application to reapply for an ITIN.
- **Suspended:** The ITIN application is suspended for a procedural issue or because it has questionable information. IRS guidelines define a questionable application as one for which the tax examiner identifies one or more discrepancies on the application. A procedural issue is one in which the applicant did not properly complete the application or did not attach the required documentation to the application.

How do you apply for an ITIN by mail?



How long is an ITIN valid?

ITINs previously were issued for an indefinite period. In 2015¹⁹, Congress mandated that individuals who received ITINs prior to January 1, 2013 are required to renew their ITINs on a staggered schedule between 2017 and 2020. [Please see chart below]. In addition, the new law states that an ITIN will expire if an individual fails to file a tax return for three consecutive years.

ITINs issued to individuals after December 31, 2012 shall remain in effect **unless** the individual does not file a tax return – or is not included as a dependent on the return of another taxpayer - for three consecutive years.

REQUIRED DATE FOR ITIN RENEWAL

If ITIN issued	Then ITIN must be renewed by
Before January 1, 2008	January 1, 2017
In 2008	January 1, 2018
In 2009 or 2010	January 1, 2019
In 2011 or 2012	January 1, 2020

What are the barriers to getting an ITIN?

Because ITIN applicants face many difficulties obtaining certified copies of their identity documents, and because of the limited options for in-person verification of these documents, many ITIN applicants may be forced into the vulnerable position of going without valuable identity documents for weeks or months (or longer, if their documents are lost). For some, this has proven too risky and burdensome. As a result, the ITIN rules that went into effect in 2012 caused a dramatic decline in the number of ITIN applications. In 2013, there were nearly 50 percent fewer ITIN applications than in each of the previous three years.²⁰ In addition, the IRS rejected over 50 percent of the applications that were submitted in 2013.²¹ According to the National Taxpayer Advocate, dramatic declines in applications for ITINs continued in 2014 and 2015 as a result of these stricter application rules, which have now been codified into law.

What problems are created by the barriers to getting an ITIN?

When the requirements for getting an ITIN are too hard to meet:

- Immigrants will not be able to get an ITIN and file income tax returns. As a result, they won't be able to comply with their obligations under federal tax laws.
- Immigrants who can't get an ITIN or file tax returns will face problems if they ever become eligible for immigration relief. Certain applications require proof that the applicant has filed tax returns to establish that he or she has "good moral character."
- Immigrants who can't get an ITIN or file tax returns will also find it harder to prove their work history and that they have been physically present in the U.S. for a certain amount of time, which is also relevant for immigration applications.

- Low-income immigrants will be prevented from claiming tax supports for which they are eligible, including the Child Tax Credit (CTC), the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC), and credits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Barriers to obtaining the CTC and ACTC can push low-income children deeper into poverty. Similarly, if they can't file tax returns, mixed-immigration status families with members who are eligible for health insurance under the ACA will not be able to prove that they have complied with the individual mandate. And if they received a health insurance premium tax credit, they won't be able to provide the information about their health insurance and income that the IRS needs in order to reconcile the tax credit that was advanced to them with the tax credit for which they're actually eligible. This could prevent them from being able to renew their health insurance the following year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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¹ Although all ITINs begin with the number "9," not all taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) starting with the number "9" are ITINs. For example, when a taxpayer files taxes without any TIN (i.e., without an SSN or ITIN), the IRS will issue a temporary IRS number (IRSN) for the taxpayer, which also begins with the number "9," that is used for internal identification purposes until the taxpayer provides a permanent TIN. Unlike IRSNs and other TINs beginning with the number "9," the fourth and fifth numbers in a 9-digit ITIN will always range from 70-88, 90-92, or 94-99. This is important to verify in cases where a taxpayer may mistakenly believe he or she is using an ITIN.

² "The IRS's Handling of ITIN Applications Imposes an Onerous Burden on ITIN Applicants, Discourages Compliance, and Negatively Affects the IRS's Ability to Detect and Deter Fraud," *National Taxpayer Advocate Annual Report to Congress* (Taxpayer Advocate Service, Internal Revenue Service, 2012), www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/userfiles/file/Full-Report/Most-Serious-Problems-ITIN-Individual-Taxpayer-Identification-Number.pdf, figure 1.9.1, p. 156. The full 2012 annual report to Congress is available from www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/2012-Annual-Report/FY-2012-Annual-Report-To-Congress-Full-Report.

³ Letter from Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas H. Shulman to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid answering questions about the Child Tax Credit, July 20, 2012, www.nilc.org/document.html?id=1098.

⁴ *Frequently Asked Questions: The Affordable Care Act & Mixed-Status Families* (National Immigration Law Center, Oct. 2013), www.nilc.org/aca_mixedstatusfams.html.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See, generally, *Backup Withholding for Missing and Incorrect Name/TIN(s)* (Pub 1281, Rev. 2-2011, Catalog No. 63327A, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Dept., 2011), www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1281.pdf.

⁷ *Recovery Act: Individuals Who Are Not Authorized to Work in the United States Were Paid \$4.2 Billion in Refundable Credits* (Ref. No. 2011-41-061, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, July 7, 2011), www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2011reports/201141061fr.pdf, appendix IV, table 1, p. 20.

⁸ Stephen Goss, Alice Wade, J. Patrick Skirvin, Michael Morris, K. Mark Bye, and Danielle Huston, *Effects of Unauthorized Immigration on the Actuarial Status of the Social Security Trust Funds* (Actuarial Note No. 151, Office of the Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, Apr. 2013), www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/NOTES/pdf_notes/notes151.pdf.

⁹ See 26 U.S.C. § 6103, www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/26/6103.

¹⁰ See 26 U.S.C. § 6103(i), www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/26/6103. Although there are two known incidents in which these exceptions appear to have been violated, they are extremely isolated events. The IRS has reiterated its strong commitment to its confidentiality rules and has subsequently reiterated its commitment to its disclosure rules in an effort to mitigate any chilling effect on ITIN tax-filers.

¹¹ P.L. 114-113, *The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*.

¹² The form and instructions are available from www.irs.gov/uac/Form-W-7-Application-for-IRS-Individual-Taxpayer-Identification-Number.

¹³ With limited exceptions, ITINs may not be filed for on their own without a complete tax return. For a list of exceptions, such as opening an interest-bearing account, see pp. 7-9 of the IRS Instructions for Form W-7, Application for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (Rev. August 2013), www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/iw7.pdf.

¹⁴ To find the TAC nearest you and learn about the services it offers, visit www.irs.gov/uac/Contact-Your-Local-IRS-Office-1.

¹⁵ To learn more about the IRS's Acceptance Agent Program, visit www.irs.gov/Individuals/Acceptance-Agent-Program.

¹⁶ "Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers: ITIN Application Procedures Burden Taxpayers and Create a Barrier to Return Filing," *National Taxpayer Advocate 2013 Annual Report to Congress* (Taxpayer Advocate Service, Internal Revenue Service, 2013), www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/userfiles/file/2013FullReport/INDIVIDUAL-TAXPAYER-IDENTIFICATION-NUMBERS-ITIN-Application-Procedures-Burden-Taxpayers-and-Create-a-Barrier-to-Return-Filing.pdf, p. 224. The full 2013 annual report to Congress is available from www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/2013-Annual-Report/About-the-Report/.

¹⁷ **ITIN Updated Procedures Frequently Asked Questions** <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/ITIN-Updated-Procedures-Frequently-Asked-Questions>, accessed 1-8-16.

¹⁸ "Tax Examiners Do Not Have the Tools or Expertise to Authenticate Documents Certified by a Foreign Issuing Agency," Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, May 29, 2015, Reference Number: 2015-40-038, accessed 1-6-16.

¹⁹ P.L. 114-113.

²⁰ "Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers: ITIN Application Procedures Burden Taxpayers and Create a Barrier to Return Filing," *supra* note 15, figure 1.21.5, p. 220.

²¹ *Id.*, figure 1.21.6, p. 221.

Social Security

Official Social Security Website

Learn What Documents You Need To Get A Social Security Card

Home > New or Replacement Social Security Number and Card > Learn What Documents You Need To Get A Social Security Card

Who is the card for **Original Card for a Noncitizen Adult**

An Adult
A Child

In general, only noncitizens who have permission to work from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can apply for a Social Security number. If you do not have permission to work but need a Social Security number for other purposes, see "If you do not have permission to work" for further information.

Type of card

Original
Replacement
Corrected

Important

You must present original documents or copies certified by the agency that issued them. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies. All documents must be current (not expired). We cannot accept a receipt showing you applied for the document.

Citizenship of the person the card is for

U.S. Born Citizen
Foreign Born U.S. Citizen
Noncitizen

What original documents do I need?

Immigration status

To prove your U.S. immigration status, you must show us your current U.S. immigration document, such as:

- Form I-551 (Lawful Permanent Resident Card, Machine Readable Immigrant Visa) with your unexpired foreign passport;
- I-766 (Employment Authorization Document, EAD, work permit); or

- I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) or admission stamp in the unexpired foreign passport.

If you are an F-1 or M-1 student, you also must show us your I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status).

If you are a J-1 or J-2 exchange visitor, you must show us your DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status).

Work eligibility

In general, only noncitizens who have permission to work from DHS can apply for a Social Security number. If you are a foreign worker, we only need to see your I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) or admission stamp in the unexpired foreign passport showing a class of admission permitting work. Some foreign workers must show their I-766 (Employment Authorization Document, EAD, work permit) from DHS.

Student: If you are an F-1 student and eligible to work on campus, you must provide a letter from your designated school official that:

- Identifies you;
- Confirms your current school status; and
- Identifies your employer and the type of work you are, or will be, doing.

We also need to see evidence of that employment, such as a recent pay slip or a letter from your employer. Your supervisor must sign and date the letter. The letter must describe:

- Your job;
- Your employment start date;
- The number of hours you are, or will be, working; and
- Your supervisor's name and telephone number.

If you are an F-1 student authorized to work in curricular practical training (CPT), you must provide us your Form I-20 with the employment

page completed and signed by your designated school official.

If you are an F-1 student and have a work permit (I-766) from DHS, you must present it.

If you are a J-1 student, student intern or international visitor, you must provide a letter from your sponsor. The letter should be on sponsor letterhead with an original signature that authorizes your employment.

If you do not have permission to work: Lawfully admitted noncitizens can get many benefits and services without a Social Security number. You do not need a number to conduct business with a bank, register for school, apply for educational tests, obtain private health insurance, apply for school lunch programs or apply for subsidized housing. You cannot get a Social Security number for the sole purpose of obtaining a driver's license.

Government benefits or services: If you do not have permission to work, you may apply for a Social Security number only if:

- A federal law requires you to provide your Social Security number to get a particular benefit or service; or
- A state or local law requires you to provide your Social Security number to get general assistance benefits for which you already have qualified.

If you need a number to meet these state or local requirements, you must bring us a letter from the government agency. It must be on letterhead stationery (no form letters or photocopies) and:

- Specifically identify you as the applicant;
- Cite the law requiring you to have a Social Security number;
- Indicate that you meet all the agency's requirements, except having the number; and
- Contain an agency contact name and telephone number.

Taxes: If you need a number for tax purposes and you are not authorized to work in the United States, you can apply for an Individual

Taxpayer Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Visit IRS in person or call the IRS toll-free number, 1-800-TAXFORM (1-800-829-3676), and request Form W-7 (Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number).

If you are assigned a number for non-work purposes, you cannot use it to work. If you use it to work, we will inform DHS.

Age

You must present your foreign birth certificate if you have it or can get it within 10 days. If not, we will consider other documents such as your passport or a document issued by DHS as evidence of your age.

Anyone age 12 or older requesting an original Social Security number **MUST** be interviewed by Social Security. We will ask for evidence to show you do not have a Social Security number. If you lived outside the United States for an extended period, a current or previous passport, school and/or employment records, and any other record that would show long-term residence outside the United States could be used to show you do not have a Social Security number.

Identity

Social Security will ask to see a current DHS document. Acceptable documents include:

- I-551 Permanent Resident Card;
- I-94 Arrival/Departure Record with unexpired foreign passport or admission stamp in the unexpired foreign passport; or
- I-766 Employment Authorization Document, (EAD, work permit) from DHS.

Note

We may use one document for two purposes. For example, we may use a DHS work permit as proof of both immigration status and identity. **However, you must provide at least two separate documents.**



Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee,

My name is Thamanna Vasan, and I am the Economic Policy Analyst at the Colorado Fiscal Institute. CFI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides credible, independent and accessible information and analysis of fiscal and economic issues facing Colorado. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1274.

Colorado is home to a small number of unauthorized immigrants, who make less than 3 percent of the total population. The majority of these immigrants work, contributing nearly \$135 million in state and local tax revenue annually, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. These immigrants are our neighbors, classmates, friends, co-workers, and contributing members of our communities that currently have very limited access to driver's licenses.

Allowing all Coloradans, regardless of status, the opportunity to get a driver's license is commonsense policy that will bring down the cost of driving for all drivers, help our economy grow, and increase the well-being of our families.

Giving unauthorized immigrants access to driver's licenses gives them an opportunity to learn and demonstrate their knowledge of the rules of the road as well as purchase insurance, bringing down the cost of insuring all drivers. An estimated 16.2 percent of all Coloradans are driving without insurance, according to an industry study by the Insurance Research Council. This figure includes all Colorado citizens, both undocumented and documented immigrants. However, unlike other uninsured motorists, unlicensed immigrant motorists lack coverage because getting insurance without a license is difficult and expensive. Driver's seeking insurance without a license report either being turned away by insurance companies or receiving abnormally high quotes for coverage.

When these individuals are not able to purchase insurance, we all feel the effects. A study conducted by economists at the University of Utah and Columbia University found that preventing the undocumented from driving legally, thus preventing them from being regulated and insured, shifts the burden to all drivers and results in increased insurance premiums. The study found that restricting access to licenses for undocumented drivers increases a state's average annual insurance cost by \$17.22 a driver. CFI analysis finds that this could result in savings for all Colorado drivers totaling nearly \$69 million a year.

The study also found that the presence of undocumented drivers in the insurance pool does not have an effect on insurance costs, dispelling the misguided notion that undocumented drivers are somehow unsafe drivers.

Not only do rates reduce for all drivers, but insurance companies and the state could also experience increased revenue. A CFI analysis found that insurance companies could see increased revenue of \$100 million annually if undocumented drivers are able to buy insurance like other drivers on the road. In addition, newly licensed drivers will be able to register their vehicles, which would result in new revenue for state and local governments on nearly 120,000 vehicles.

Finally, having a driver's license allows people to participate in our economy and take care of essential daily needs. According to a 2011 study from the Oregon Department of Transportation, those with driver's licenses are more likely to work and make larger purchases, which is good for our local economies and communities. Increasing access to driver's licenses for all is good for our economy, good for our state, and good for our communities. And so, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 1274.

What does House Bill 1274 do?

In 2015, JBC denied the Department of Revenue spending authority request to further implement the self-funded SB251 Driver's License program. This prevented DOR from spending the fees it had already collected from the community, reduced the number of offices from five to three and left thousands trying, and unable, to schedule an appointment.

HB 16-1274 removes the cap that was created by the JBC decision (66,000 appointments total). This was an assumption of 30 percent participation even though the participation was consistently above 70 percent. When the cap is reached driver's licenses will only be issued at one DMV offices that can only complete 31 appointments per day. The bill also allows individuals to use both Individual Taxpayer ID Numbers as well as valid SSN.

Bill sponsors

House: Singer, Becker K., Esgar, Fields, Garnett, Lontine, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Primavera, Ryden, Salazar, Tyler, Vigil

Senate: Ulibarri, Aguilar, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Jones, Merrifield, Steadman

Thamanna Vasan,
Economic Policy Analyst
Colorado Fiscal Institute
vasan@coloradofiscal.org
720-379-3019 ext. 227



Chan Law Firm
Immigration and Civil Litigation

May 4, 2016

The Honorable Senator Ray Scott and members of Senate State Affairs Committee

RE: SB-251 Licenses and Non-Citizens with Validly Issued SSNs

Mister Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is James Lamb and I am an immigration attorney with Chan Law firm. I am currently the Chair of the DMV Liaison Committee of the Colorado Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). As such, I have been involved for some time in attempts to address various issues surrounding implementation of SB-251. The Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) on behalf of the I Drive CO Campaign has asked me to share a short testimony today address the difference between non-citizens with validly issued Social Security Numbers (SSNs) and noncitizens with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) in favor HB1274.

Only certain classes of noncitizens are eligible for SSNs. For a noncitizen to get an SSN, she must present herself to a local SSA office and bring along immigration documents establishing both lawful status and work authorization. The SSA office will verify the immigration documents through SAVE. Every individual over the age of 12 is interviewed by the SSA as part of the application process to confirm identity and personal information.

Noncitizens who are eligible get a limited SSN, and on the card, there is a notation stating that the number is valid only with work authorization. Once you have an SSN, it's yours for life, in virtually all cases. Once an SSN is issued, the IRS will not thereafter issue an ITIN. Consequently, while it is possible for a person to obtain an ITIN and then later obtain an SSN, the reverse is not true. Further, the IRS directs people to stop using their ITINs once they've received SSNs.

Currently, there is a population of existing noncitizens in Colorado who have valid SSNs and how have undergone the SSA process. When SB13-251 was originally drafted, there was a drafting error that left out the acceptance of SSN. The revision made with HB1274 is to correct this drafting error by saying "one may present an ITIN or SSN" as part of the initial requirements. Therefore, a population of noncitizens in Colorado who would otherwise benefit from the SB251 program been unintentionally disqualified.

1900 Grant St., Suite 750, Denver, CO 80203
www.chanimmigration.com

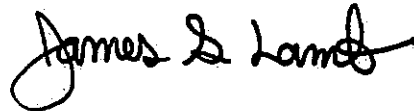
303.586.5555
fax 303.586.5727

To get an ITIN, a noncitizen/nonresident must file a U.S. tax return (there are only very rare exceptions to this). The ITIN application is usually filed concurrently with the tax return and processing can take several weeks. ITINs have a set number range, and the first set of three numbers is always in the 900 range. The second, two number set is always in 70-99 range. They are therefore easy to spot, and an ITIN cannot be used for employment or to obtain public benefits.

Once again, I want to emphasize that the SSN exclusion was merely a drafting error, and that there is no security issue (i.e., fraud issue) raised by correcting this error. SSNs are verified much more stringently through both SAVE verification which ensures that immigration docs presented are valid before the SSN is issued, and SSOLV verification by the DMV in the issuing process of licenses and IDs. Therefore, both SAVE and SSOLV verification ensures that only to people with valid SSNs would have access to obtaining a License or ID under the SB251 program. Lastly, Colorado is a REAL ID compliant state, which means that our verification and security procedures comply with stringent federal law.

For these reasons, I would like to encourage you for a YES vote for HB1274 so that every Colorado resident has access to a driver's license and are not disqualified because of an original drafting error.

Sincerely,



James S. Lamb, Attorney At Law



May 4, 2016

Dear House of Representatives State Affairs Committee,

My name is Patricia Serna. I have lived in Colorado for 13 years. I'm a community leader with Pueblo Mayas in Pueblo, Colorado and a member of the I Drive CO Campaign. I have a Social Security Number as a result of an immigration petition filed by father, who is a U.S. citizen, which disqualifies me from obtaining a driver's license under the currently law of SB251.

To drive is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The reason I need a driver's license is because I have two daughters who I need to take to school, to the doctor when they get sick, to get them food when they are hungry and care for all the needs they have just like every child in the state of Colorado. We have to drive for the most basic necessities in life. This is why driving not a luxury but a necessity. To have a license would not just benefit my family but also you, your family members and all the people in your individual districts who drive on the roads every day.

The passing of SB251 gave me hope that I would be able to obtain a driver's license but I have not been able to since I have a Social Security Number. Today I ask you in the name of my daughters, in the names of your family members, in the name of your constituents, and in the name of every Coloradan driving on the roads now to support HB1274 and to vote YES. This bill will give thousands of people in the same situation as me the opportunity to obtain a driver's licenses.

As a state wide coalition we believe in the importance of have safe roads and in the proper implementation of the law SB -251. Every person needs to have access to obtaining a driver's license, and everyone need to know the rules of the roads. Passing HB1274 truly is a benefit for all Coloradans and it will improve our state economy because more people will be able to buy cars and have access to affordable car insurance. I pray today that everyone in this room sees the importance of voting YES and supporting HB-1274. Members of this committee show the state of Colorado that you as senators believe in safe roads and in a safer community for all with your vote.

Thank you,
Patricia Herminia Serna Cereceres
Pueblo Mayas Leader
Pueblo, Colorado

The I Drive CO Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive CO is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and identification documents.



UNLOCKING THE POWER OF PEOPLE



Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee,

My name is Aleida Ramirez and I am a community leader with Together Colorado and the I Drive CO Campaign.

For a few moments I would like to invite you all to close your eyes and imagine a severe accident that happened to someone on their way to work and found with their family. The impact of the accident was immense, the vehicle is wrecked, as the person hit regains consciousness he can see that the person who caused the accident has left. The person who hit him was someone without a license and also did not have insurance to cover the accident. The person ran because their fear of meeting the police was too great because they did not have a license or insurance.

Open your eyes. This is only an imaginative scenario but it is something that happens in daily life. An accident is not something you can prevent. However, you each can VOTE YES for a bill that will open more offices, give an opportunity to those who have a valid Social Security to obtain a license and not limit the number of people who can benefit in obtaining a license.

Let's talk about money. We are residents of Colorado and we pay taxes. Becoming a Colorado resident for 2 years and paying state taxes are requirements for the driver's license program. The Federal government allows for any person to obtain an Individual Tax Identification Number to pay our taxes and this process is very accessible. As residents of Colorado who pay taxes and pay for all the direct and indirect costs of the SB251 program, I believe we as Coloradans have the right to efficient state programs. As I remember the words of James Otis from the historical event of the Boston Tea Party, "Taxation without representation." I think about how similar our frustrations are now in Colorado with the SB251 program to the forefathers of this country.

Yes, I am an immigrant, but I am more importantly I am a Colorado Resident. I have lived here for more than 2 decades and paid my taxes. I want to drive safely and I also want to every single Coloradan to drive safely as well, including you Mr. Chairman and your fellow members of this committee. Because I imagine that you have a family with children to take to school and to the doctor as well as other activities in your daily life where you need to drive like myself.

It is not difficult to understand the purpose of HB1274. It is intended to fully implement the law SB251 Colorado Roads and Community Safety Act to provide licenses for all, to allow us to protect ourselves and one another when we are driving.

Yes, we are talking about safety. And how this bill will prevent people from fleeing the scene of an accident. A Driver's License is a necessity. It is the basic information of an individual which helps the police to identify each person and to have reasonable control of who each person is. In the case of an infraction it will be much easier for police to identify this individual.

Thank you for your attention and I urge you Mr. Chairman and your fellow committee members to vote YES for HB1274. This bill will benefit every Coloradan by creating safe roads, because each individual will know the rules of the roads and have greater access to a driver's license and insurance. As Colorado residences who pay taxes, once again I encourage you to consider the words of James Otis, because we have complied with taxation and now Senators I ask you with your vote "Where is our representation?"

Sincerely,
Aleida Ramirez
Together Colorado Leader
Denver, Colorado

Together Colorado is a Member of The PICO National Network

1980 Dahlia St. Denver, CO 80220 Ph: 303.399.2425 Fax: 303.399.1969

www.togethercolorado.org

TOGETHER COLORADO IS A NON-PARTISAN MULTI-FAITH, MULTI-RACIAL ORGANIZATION

The I Drive CO Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive CO is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and identification documents.



May 4, 2016

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

My name is Joe Pelle. I am the elected sheriff in Boulder County serving my fourth term. I have been a Colorado Peace Officer for the past 36 years.

I support HB1274 because it is a common sense public safety bill. In states where licenses are issued to immigrants regardless of status, the percentage of licensed and insured drivers on the road increased pretty dramatically. Increasing the percentage of properly licensed drivers does a number of things that are good for everyone in the community:

1. Licensed drivers have access to insurance, reducing harm to accident victims.
2. There would naturally be a reduction in hit and run accidents.
3. The police would have reliable identification to issue summon's and penalty assessment tickets to a licensed driver.
4. Accountability improves for driving actions, and minor traffic infractions do not turn into jailable offenses due to a lack of ID.
5. License recipients receive driver education on the rules of the road.

All of these are good for the community and make our roads safer. Please support expanding the access to these licenses.

Thank you,
Joe Pelle
Boulder County Sheriff

The I Drive CO Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive CO is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and identification documents.



May 4, 2016

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

My name is Alma Rosa Trejo I live in Lamar, Colorado about 320 miles from the closest offices that give out drivers licenses under the law SB251. In October 2014 on my way to my appointment my car broke down in Pueblo, Colorado, but I was able to arrive to my appointment in a taxi. Unfortunately, since I did not have my car, I could only obtain my drivers permit.

In September 2015 My youngest daughter Carime who was 5 years old at the time got sick. I drove to get her prescription for her Asthma and on my way back home I was stopped by a police officer, because I stopped at a stop sign and over crossed the white line. When I showed him my documents he told me that I could not continue driving and that I needed to call someone to come pick up my daughter and I. I called but I was not able to connect with anyone. I explained to the officer that I lived in the Camp on country road in the outskirts of town and told him that by the time I got home it would be dark. By this time it was already 7:30 in the evening. I then asked if he were to catch me driving if he would arrest me and he answered that most likely he would. I explained that it was getting very difficult for me to make an appointment so that I can get a driver's license and that there are only 3 offices in the whole state and the appointments are very limited throughout the day making it very hard to get.

He told me that there was nothing he can do and that he did not care about my daughter health condition. So I held my daughters hand and took my daughters medication in my other hand, as he let us go walking home.

My daughter got very emotional and sad she thought that I was going to jail she felt that she would never see me again. My daughter then grabbed a pen and paper and drew my face and asked her older sister to help her spell my name and drew me a picture of a driver's license and gave it to me. Carime told me that it was for me so that I won't get arrested the next time she has to take me to the doctor or to school. She was only 5 years old and she knew that I was the only person who could take her to go buy food, to school, or to doctor appointments.

The I Drive CO Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive CO is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and identification documents.

I am pleading for your support for HB-1274 so that no other person have to suffer the same situation that my daughter and I went through. I believe that we all want safe roads and for that we need the support from you all as our Senators who are able to help pass HB1274. The ability to get an appointment under the current SB 251 program has been almost impossible in these last few months because of the lack of offices and the few appointments available throughout the day. If HB1274 were to pass I believe there would be fewer accidents because people would learn the rules of the road and they would not flee from incidents for fear of being arrested. Every person would have their own driver's license and insurance in their name to cover such accidents. All we want is safe roads for our children, our families, and your families too. I ask you to vote YES on HB1274. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Alma Rosa Trejo-Mendoza
Community Leader of Lamar Unidos
Lamar, Colorado

The I Drive CO Campaign includes over 40 Colorado organizations. I Drive CO is dedicated to making our communities and roads safer through monitoring and improving access for undocumented Coloradans to licenses and identification documents.