

## ***U.S.-born Latinos: No license for illegals***

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### **Body**

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Washington --- A majority of **U.S.-born** Hispanics --- 60 percent --- support laws that deny driver's **licenses** to illegal immigrants, according to a national poll released Tuesday.

By contrast, only 29 percent of foreign-born Hispanics feel the same way, said the survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group.

"You see these two important parts of the Latino population going in different directions," Roberto Suro, director of the center, said in a conference call with reporters.

Congress approved the REAL I.D. Act this year, which makes driver's **licenses** valid for a range of federal activities --- from boarding a plane to collecting Social Security benefits --- only if they are issued solely to U.S. citizens and legal immigrants.

Several states already have laws to ban or restrict illegal immigrants from getting state identification cards and driver's **licenses**.

While the poll found several areas of disagreement between foreign-born and native Hispanics, both groups showed high support for immigrants in general.

Eighty percent of all Hispanics said immigrants strengthen the United States because of their hard work, while 14 percent said they are a burden because they take jobs, housing and health care.

In addition, 56 percent of Hispanics said they favor a temporary worker program that would let illegal immigrants continue to live and work in the United States for a number of years before returning home.

President Bush has proposed such a plan, although it is unclear whether it would include any chance at permanent residency for temporary workers.

In Congress, several proposals have been introduced, but they face an uphill battle because many lawmakers oppose giving any legal status to people who have entered the United States illegally.

The Pew survey found that a significant minority of native-born Hispanics --- 34 percent --- are also concerned about illegal immigrants and believe that they drive down wages. Only 15 percent of foreign-born **Latinos** agreed.

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The poll also surveyed people in Mexico, and found that Mexicans of all economic and social classes are interested in migrating to the United States.

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