

## **License responsible illegal immigrants**

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### **Body**

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The events of Sept. 11 spawned many a political debate, one of the more recent ones being whether **illegal immigrants** should be granted driver's **licenses**. **Allowing illegal immigrants** to get driver's **licenses** is a good idea, as the ones obtaining the **licenses** would be the ones who are already contributing positively to our society, regardless of their **illegal** status.

Citing examples of Sept. 11 hijackers, critics of granting **illegal immigrants** driver's **licenses** suggest that having **licenses** will make it easier for dangerous aliens to fit into our culture and, consequently, to damage it. Linda Lewis, president of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, told the Associated Press that having a **license** "**allows** you to immerse yourself in society." "There are loopholes in the law that **allow** those who are here to do harm to work their way into the system," she added.

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What Lewis and those who hold similar viewpoints fail to recognize is that **licenses** can often be obtained through **illegal** means. Even so, these critics are discussing this as a national safety issue when it is actually more a matter of national well-being.

Currently, North Carolina, Utah and Tennessee only require proof of residency in that state in order to obtain a driver's **license**. In Colorado, state Sen. Ron Tupa, D-Boulder, recently introduced a bill that would **allow illegal immigrants** to obtain **licenses** by using their federal taxpayer identification numbers instead of social security numbers, which, as **illegal aliens**, the applicants would not have.

Tupa is acknowledging that making it legal for hard-working **illegal aliens** to receive **licenses** does not endorse **illegal** emigration to the United States, but rather provides a logical solution to an all-too-often ignored problem. "What I'm trying to deal with ... is the reality of the fact that these individuals are here, they're working here and they're driving here."

Under these systems, **illegal immigrants** should only be **allowed** to get **licenses** if they have proof of insurance. If they have insurance, they are surely holding down a job to pay for insurance and thus are not a drain on our economy. Why not **allow** people who are going to drive anyway do it legally and under insurance that not only helps them but also taxpayers?

If an **illegal alien** driver gets in an accident and does not have a **license** or insurance, guess who foots the medical bill when the driver or others are injured in the accident? Taxpayers. American Taxpayers.

Granting **illegal immigrants licenses** will do nothing to compromise national security. In fact, the ones who would take the initiative to obtain a **license** legally are not the ones we need to worry about. **Illegal immigrants** should

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not be in this country, but they are here regardless. **Allowing** them to get driver's **licenses** is a step toward making these individuals contributors to our country instead of the parasites they are often viewed as being.

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