

Voces de la Frontera: Milwaukee County overwhelmingly passes resolution supporting restoring state driver licenses for immigrants

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MILWAUKEE – Thursday morning, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors overwhelmingly passed a [resolution](#) declaring support for restoring access to driver licenses at the state level for all Wisconsin residents regardless of immigration status. The Racine Common Council [passed a similar resolution](#) in January. The Milwaukee County resolution was introduced by County Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, and it passed by a 14-2 margin. [Click here for video of the vote.](#)

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has included measures to restore driver licenses for immigrant Wisconsinites in his 2019-2021 state budget proposal. Leaders from both parties have [spoken out](#) in support of restoring driver licenses for immigrants, and hundreds of people [participated in a lobby day](#) at the Capitol last Thursday in support of the proposal. Wisconsinites could obtain driver licenses regardless of immigration status until 2007, when a law passed by the legislature the previous year requiring driver license applicants to have a Social Security Number went into effect.

“I came to this country hungry, as a single parent to six children, the youngest of whom was just three years old when we arrived,” said Guadalupe Romero, a member of Voces de la Frontera, while testifying during a County Board Judiciary Committee hearing on the resolution on March 7th. “That’s why we’re seeking support for our efforts to regain driver licenses. I want to contribute to this country. I want to continue being a hard-working person.”

“I’m very pleased that this item has passed and want to thank all the people who came to testify in support of this measure,” said County Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, author of the resolution. “The County of Milwaukee stands firm in its support of our vibrant immigrant community.”