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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 19-H 5511  
AN ACT RELATING TO OPERATORS' LICENSE**  
March 27, 2019

The ACLU of RI strongly supports this bill, which would ensure that immigrant drivers, regardless of their status, are trained, tested, licensed and insured. Contrary to the views of opponents of this legislation, doing this will actually promote public safety.

As long as there is a substantial population of undocumented immigrants in the state, it makes little sense to deprive them of a license solely because of their immigrant status. Whether a person should get a drivers' license should be based solely on whether they are qualified as drivers and are residents of *the state*. Ultimately, allowing individuals to get a license promotes safe driving, and provide a means of identification for law enforcement and for other purposes.

This bill is carefully crafted to ensure that only people who can prove their identity and their residence in Rhode Island will qualify for licenses. No more should be required. Unlike many of the other states that allow undocumented residents to get drivers' licenses, this bill even requires applicants to provide proof that they have paid taxes for the past two years.

It is time for Rhode Island to join the dozen other states that authorize licenses for undocumented immigrants. The ACLU urges passage of this legislation.