

Somos Un Pueblo Unido

1804 Espinacitas St. Santa Fe, NM 87505 (505) 424-7832 www.somosunpueblounido.org

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Contact: Marcela Díaz
(505) 424-7832

STATEWIDE IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS RESPONDS TO HOUSE VOTE ON DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

The following is a statement by María Cristina López, a Founding Board Member of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, a statewide immigrants' rights organization, regarding the House vote to repeal the law that allows foreign nationals without social security numbers to apply for drivers' licenses:

“Today our legislators voted for a bill that would take our state backwards in terms of public safety. In several committee hearings, dozens of families, business owners, law enforcement officials, and representatives from banking institutions testified about the merits of having all drivers in New Mexico licensed. Thousands more have attended hearings, signed petitions, emailed their legislators or participated in lobbying activities at the Round House to oppose Rep. Nunez' bill . It's a dangerous precedent and inexcusable that House members would shut New Mexicans out from the legislative process by blasting Rep. Nunez' bill to the floor, and passing a substitute bill without any hearings or public input.

Legislators' refusal to even consider a “compromise” bill that attempted to address specific concerns about fraud, shows that this debate isn't about sound public policy, it's about politics and re-election campaigns.

We are hopeful that in the remaining weeks our elected officials will do their job and legislate responsibly based on facts and not hateful political rhetoric about hardworking immigrants in our state.”

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Somos Un Pueblo Unido spearheaded a campaign in 2003 with law enforcement officials, victims rights agencies, and faith and civil right group groups, to allow qualified immigrant drivers to apply for licenses, obtain insurance, and register their vehicles.