

## Testimony

Good morning, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, and all other members of the Senate.

My name is Pastor Eddy Fleury of the Church of God of Prophecy, located here on the island of St. Thomas. I come before you and the listening and viewing public to share my support for Bill 35-0013, an Act amending Title 20 of the Virgin Islands Code, Part 2, Chapter 35, relating to the issuance of Bureau of Motor Vehicle's Operators' Licenses and Identification Cards to allow applicants to obtain limited local-purpose identification cards and operators' licenses without providing certain federally required documentation.

I have been a pastor for many years and have prayed with and pastored a number of persons in this community. I can share with you today that this legislation will, in fact, transform lives. It will give people hope. There is no secret that we have several persons in this territory that are undocumented and are possibly driving a vehicle to work, taking the children to school, or shopping for groceries. Many of them, believe it or not, are hard-working and respectable people who, at times, are waiting for their paperwork to be processed or overstayed for one reason or another.

Based on this legislation, you will be giving them an opportunity to comply with the law and obtain a driver's license once they can provide proof of residency and proof of identity and meet the other necessary requirements. Regarding the identification card, they can use it to conduct business; as we all know, having an ID card is essential in today's society for reasons such as picking up money from money transfer institutions such as Western Union or MoneyGram or providing proper identification when being admitted to the emergency room. Senators many other states have been moving in this direction to help these particular members of their community in living productive lives. We will be doing the same thing here in the Virgin Islands.

On behalf of myself and the countless people I assist in our community, I implore you to support this proposal and permit them to obtain an ID Card and Driver's license if they meet the Bureau of Motor Vehicles requirements. Thank you for listening to my testimony, and I am prepared to answer any queries you may have.