

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Submitted By:

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President, The India Association of the Virgin Islands

Committee on Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety

March 15, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Kenneth Gittens, members of the Committee, other senators present, fellow testifiers, and the listening and viewing public.

I would like to start by thanking you for your ability to submit this statement of support for Bill No. 35-0013 before the Senate. Unfortunately, as a small business owner, it's difficult for me to be present in person, mainly because of cruise ships is in port today, and we are approaching the end of the season. Nonetheless, this bill is important enough for me to ask for your indulgence and support.

I am the owner of Lucky Jewelers here on the island of St. Thomas. I have owned my own business for over 30 years, contributing to our local economy. I have had the ability to meet with the sponsor, Senator Carrion, to gain a clearer understanding of the legislation and its positive impact it will have on the territory. As the President of the India Association of the Virgin Islands, I have shared the information with my members, and we are in support.

We support this bill because it promotes safe driving and unity within our community. The bill will allow any resident of the Virgin Islands who can prove their identity and residence in the territory to be eligible for an identification card or a driver's license subject to passing the required exams. As a businessman for many years, I know how vital a valid identification card is to do any transaction today, especially for potential employment, banking etc.

In addition, we've observed an increase in the number of vehicles on the roads over time; therefore, it's imperative that all drivers on our street have a license and insurance to protect themselves and other motorists.

Senators, this measure might be highly beneficial for the Virgin Islands since it will allow us to accurately identify members of our society and provide a legal option for people to drive safely on the roadways. Thank you again for supporting Bill No. 35-0013 and for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Pash Daswani  
President