

# *Donna M. Christensen M D*

6031 Questa Verde, Christiansted  
St. Croix, VI 00820

The Honorable Samuel Carrion  
Member of the 35th Legislature  
Of the Virgin Islands of the United States  
3922 Estate Golden Rock, Christiansted  
St. Croix, VI 00820

Dear Senator Carrion:

I write this letter in support of your Bill 35- 0013. I have long seen that providing a special license or even an ID would be of more benefit to the jurisdiction that granted it, than even to the individual.

By my last count 19 states and DC have enacted laws enabling so-called "undocumented" immigrants to be able to get drivers licenses. Some have also banned such licenses.

I know there are amendments proposed including one by the Sponsor himself, so please allow me to speak to the issue generically.

There is always a benefit to know who is living in our community and where for our own planning purposes. But beyond that to legally buy a car and get car insurance one must have a drivers license. No doubt, without this being in place there are significant off line purchases of vehicles that are on the road without insurance. Where states have enacted such a law, there have been significant reductions in hit and runs, and if a driver is stopped even for a routine purpose, they can be protected by having a valid VI license. The bill has provisions that are similar to those of other jurisdictions as to what documentation the applicant must provide and the frequency of renewals.

Having such licenses also has not only the potential for new revenue because of the need for renewals, but also to lower car insurance rates for everyone. Verifiable addresses can also assist all of our local government agencies.

With the stipulation that this information will not be shared with immigration or Federal law enforcement agencies without a court order, the immigrant is protected.

Please see the OpEd written years ago that is attached for further Thoughts on this issue.

I apologize for the delay in sending this. I can be reached at [delegatedonna@yahoo.com](mailto:delegatedonna@yahoo.com)  
Or 349-713-0568 for further clarifications or information.

Respectfully submitted,

