CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

January 6, 2014

Jean Shiomoto
Director, Department of Motor Vehicles
2415 First Ave, Mail Station F101
Sacramento, CA 95818

Re: AB 60 (Alejo): Implementation Process

Dear Ms. Shiomoto:

The passage of AB 60 (Alejo) marked a major victory in the decades long effort to enhance the civil rights of immigrants in California. Undoubtedly, the policy change was desperately needed. Now immigrants across the state will have a safe and secure way to take their children to school and get to work.

In light of the urgent need for driver's licenses, we respectfully request that you expedite the development of regulations and commence accepting applications for licenses as soon as possible. We understand that a program of this magnitude presents technical and staffing challenges as more than one million new individuals will be eligible for driver's licenses. Nevertheless, with the support of community groups and local governments across the state we have full confidence that the Department of Motor Vehicles will be able to accelerate the process by several months. Such an effort will improve road safety for all Californians and address a longstanding need in our communities.

In addition to our collective desire to see this critical legislation implemented on an expedited basis, we have an interest in ensuring that recipients of these licenses are treated in an equitable and just manner by all law enforcement agencies. In fact, safeguards were specifically put in place to deter discrimination by public agencies against individuals with these new licenses. As such, we look to the Department to reinforce the Legislature's intent to have all state and local entities recognize these documents as they would any existing driver's license.

Lastly, by reinstating driving privileges to undocumented immigrants California is taking a step forward in protecting the rights of all residents. Yet to guarantee the success of our goals, this new program must be implemented with a heightened sensitivity to privacy concerns. Indeed, the undocumented immigrant population faces unique challenges that cannot be disregarded. With that in mind we urge you to work with immigrant advocates to address those challenges. Through a collaborative process, we are confident the Department will be able to develop a program that truly meets the needs of the immigrant community.

Given the importance of these issues we request a meeting to discuss how we can assist you in achieving a comprehensive and expedited implementation of AB 60. Our staff will be in contact soon to explore a mutually convenient time to meet.

Chair: Sen. Ricardo Lara *Vice Chair:* Asm. Luis Alejo

Senators: Ron Calderon, Lou Correa, Kevin De León, Ed Hernández, Ben Hueso, Alex Padilla, Norma Torres *Assembly Members:* Raul Bocanegra, Ian Calderon, Nora Campos, Cristina Garcia, Jimmy Gomez, Lorena Gonzalez, Roger Hernández, Jose Medina, Henry T. Perea, Speaker John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Sharon Quirk-Silva, Anthony Rendon, Freddie Rodriguez, Rudy Salas, Susan Talamantes Eggman

1020 N Street, Room 511 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Phone (916) 651-1535 • Fax (916) 651-4933

We look forward to working with you to make the new driver licenses a success. If you should have any questions, please contact us directly at (916) 651-1535.

Sincerely,

RICARDO LARA
Senator, 33rd District
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

LUIS ALEJO
Assembly Member, 30th District
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus

KEVIN DE LEON
Senator, 22nd District

RON CALDERON
Senator, 30th District

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Senator, 34th District

ED HERNANDEZ, O.D.
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Assembly Member, 61th District

HENRY T. PEREA
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Assembly Member, 52nd District

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Assembly Member, 32nd District

SUSAN TALAMANTES-EGGMAN
Assembly Member, 13th District