



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 8, 2009

To: The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Chairman
The Honorable Robert Huff, Vice Chairman
Members, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kimberley Dellinger, General Counsel
Ermelinda Ruiz, Legislative Advocate

Re: SB 60 (Cedillo): Vehicles: Driver's License
Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Hearing April 14,
2009
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write over 60% of the auto insurance sold in the state, including State Farm, Allstate, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Group, 21st Century and Progressive, **supports SB 60 by Senator Cedillo.**

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. Current law prevents many immigrants from receiving the proper training and testing to be safe, licensed and insured drivers. PIFC supports SB 60 because it would help make California roads safer by allowing all California drivers, within the context of the Federal Real ID Act of 2005, to obtain drivers' licenses on the basis of ability to pass the certification requirements of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Once implemented, SB 60 will allow California law to adhere to the permissive provisions of the Federal Real ID Act by providing a "driving only license," that is not recognized by the federal government for identification purposes, and clearly states on its face that it cannot be used by any federal agency for federal identification or any other official purpose.

California issues driving licenses to ensure that drivers have a demonstrated basic understanding and necessary competence of the rules of the road, both for their safety and for the safety of other drivers. For 65 years until 1994, California licensed all drivers that met these requirements without regard to immigration status. SB 60 will allow all Californians who drive to be tested for their competency. PIFC supports SB 60 for these pertinent reasons:

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- Trained, tested, and insured drivers enhance public safety for everyone. By allowing all California residents to apply for a driver's license and learn the rules of the road, SB 60 will improve highway safety and protect the lives of all Californians.
- Ensuring all California drivers have access to auto insurance will help reduce costs for all motorists. Unlicensed drivers are unable to obtain auto insurance and are more likely to pass the costs associated with an accident on to insured drivers, driving up insurance costs.

For the foregoing reasons, **PIFC supports SB 60** and urges your “**yes**” vote. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's support, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Cedillo (Author)
Mike Prosio, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Secretary
Jennifer Gress, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Ted Morley, Senate Republican Caucus
Manolo Platin, Office of the Insurance Advisor