



## GREEN LIGHT COALITION STATEMENT: DMV Publishes Requirements for Green Light Law 12/6/2019

The Green Light NY: Driving Together Coalition celebrates the release of information by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles about the implementation of the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, scheduled to take effect on December 16th. We commend our state officials for developing an eligibility scheme in accordance with the law that will make standard driver's licenses accessible to hundreds of thousands of undocumented New Yorkers. Newly eligible drivers will very soon have the opportunity to go through the same process as any other standard license applicant. All New Yorkers will benefit from this law which makes our roads safer for everyone and boosts New York's economy. In the coming weeks and months, our coalition looks forward to partnering with state government to educate community members about the new eligibility requirements and ensure smooth implementation of the Green Light law across New York State.

"In one week New York will restore access to driver licenses for all qualified applicants and all of New York will benefit. We are proud to have worked in the strong coalition that fought for this basic necessity, a coalition that spanned many interests and regions, all the way from Long Island to here in Western New York. The leadership and voice of those who are most impacted are central to this victory and are a clear reminder that New York needs to continue to fight for and protect the rights of all immigrants, in this and every action in the coming years. On December 16th, with the advent of a fair and reasonable law, we all win." **Jennifer Connor, Executive Director, Justice for Migrant Families WNY**

**Javier H. Valdés, Co-Executive Director of Make the Road New York**, said: "The Green Light NY law is a historic win for immigrant New Yorkers who led the fight for nearly 20 years. Expanding driver's licenses will change the lives of hundreds of thousands who will be eligible to apply for a driver's license in our state. We are ready to focus on helping to ensure a proper implementation of the law and making sure every eligible New Yorker is informed with accurate information needed to apply for a driver's license."

"We are happy to finally see NYS moving forward in implementing Driver's Licenses for All, including updated websites like the DMV looking more like they did two decades ago before the ban took place restricting many immigrants from driver's licenses. As the 13th state to pass this type of legislation, the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act includes some of the strongest privacy and confidentiality policies of any state, and we encourage our community members and allies to spread the news about this upcoming opportunity. This is a large step in the right direction, but we must continue to stay vigilant in holding our representatives and government agencies accountable for a smooth and efficient implementation." **John Park, Minkwon Executive Director**



“December 16th will be a historic day for New York’s hard-working immigrant community. After waiting 18 years to have their right to drive restored, New York - thanks to the leadership of the Legislature - can now officially join 12 other states in making drivers licenses legally available to all its residents. With Governor Cuomo's support, we expect our communities to fully exercise their rights to apply for a Standard Driver’s License. Just like everyone else, immigrant New Yorkers will take a driving course, prove their residency, take the official driving test, get their cars inspected and buy car insurance. This will help all New Yorkers to get to work, take our kids to school, turbocharge our economy and increase public safety for all New Yorkers,” **said Steve Choi, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition.**

**Martha Maffei Executive Director of SEPA Mujer Inc. says** “In celebration of justice for immigrant families in the restoration of access, we applaud the collaborative effort from our elected officials and agencies. However advocates in the frontlines have been dealing with community confusion, incorrect information being circulated and community concerns since the passage of the legislation 6 months ago. We are concerned about successful implementation, ample employee training and community education with just a week from the date of implementation. As we celebrate this historic victory for our New York Immigrant communities we ask organizations across the state to create plans to address the needs of your communities assist and uplift those who will need further guidance. ”

**Paola Zuniga SEPA Mujer and Green Light Gabinete member says,** “This license will bring peace to my family and to my community in the East End. To see change we must unite and make those changes together. The collective grassroots work is reflected with the social impact in our communities. Yes we could! Because united we are stronger!”

“Across New York, communities are anxiously awaiting the implementation of the Green Light bill. The opportunity to apply for a license will transform the lives of so many New Yorkers--especially a large percentage of farmworkers whose labor forms the basis of our agricultural economy. At the Worker Justice Center of New York, we are committed to making sure those we serve are fully informed about the process and understand their newly won rights. This victory has been a long time coming.” **Emma Kreyche, Advocacy Director at the Worker Justice Center of New York**