



Mobility is Freedom!

We are immigrants. We are Black. Our communities need driver's licenses.

Black lives are under attack, and that includes Black immigrant lives. Our immigrant community includes Black immigrants from Brazil, Haiti, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, to name a few. Each of these are among the top 15 home countries for undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts. Passing the Work and Family Mobility Act would dismantle part of the structural racism that immigrants face in our Commonwealth.

WGBH News recently reviewed a Boston Police Department report revealing that, in 2019, 70% of people stopped by the police were Black, even though Black people represent less than a quarter of the city's population. This data clearly demonstrates our reality: our communities are racially profiled and disproportionately policed. For Black immigrants, this over policing has grave consequences as families and communities are torn apart through detention and deportation.

There is no doubt that the socially damaging and unsafe linkage of driving privileges to immigration status is a part of the systemic racism that continues to hold back Black communities. Mobility is necessary. The current pandemic has shown how systemic inequities disproportionately affect Black and Brown communities, many of which are also immigrant communities.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, our work has been deemed essential. Through the reopening, it is only appropriate that we have the dignity of our lives also deemed essential. Whether it is working in healthcare, construction or the food supply chain, we need to protect the health and safety of immigrants who live and work in every corner of our Commonwealth. The time has come to offer the essential tool of mobility to immigrants who are part of our economic fabric. As we prepare for the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must learn the lessons from the first. Where there is a risk to one, there is a risk to all.

[Natalícia Tracy, PH.D. Executive Director, Brazilian Worker Center]

[Dalida Rocha, 615 New England Political Director, 32BJ SEIU]

In the spirit of multiracial unity with the Black Lives Matter movement, we, the undersigned, support our Black immigrant neighbors, coworkers, friends, and families by standing in solidarity with the signatories of this statement.

[Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor At-Large]

[Marie-Frances Rivera, President, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center]



[Paulo De Barros, President, Cape Verdean Association of Boston]

[Lee Matsueda, Executive Director, Community Labor United]

[Enrique Pepen, Chair Young Democrats of MA Latino Caucus]

[Danielle Williams, Organizer, Prophetic Resistance Boston]

[Reverend Dieufort J. Fleurissant, True Alliance Center Inc. & Haitian Americans United, Inc.]

[Andrea Nyamekye & Elvis Méndez, Co-Executive Directors, Neighbor to Neighbor Education Fund]

[Senior Pastor Steve Watson, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization]