

SOMOS UN PUEBLO UNIDO

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PRESS RELEASE

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Somos Un Pueblo Unido Responds to Driver's License Fraud Reports

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Santa Fe, NM – In light of the recent developments regarding fraud and misuse of foreign national driver's licenses, Somos Un Pueblo Unido issued this statement:

“We support law enforcement in their efforts to crack down on crime and corruption across the board, and in the isolated cases of fraud that have been found in our driver's license system. But we also believe it's vital to bring balance to this issue, which has largely focused on the negative impacts of issuing driver's licenses to foreign nationals.”

“Our position on this issue is clear: we do not support fraudulent activities, but we believe it's integral to the safety of New Mexican's for all drivers who live in our state to be licensed and insured. Providing driver's licenses for immigrants also ensure that law enforcement have the data they need to do their jobs.”

“The Senate passed legislation during the last session that would increase restrictions on foreign national driver's licenses and punish people who committed fraud, but it has yet to receive support from Governor Martinez. Fraud and corruption occurs across the board, even in states that do not license foreign nationals. We need to make sure when we discuss foreign national driver's licenses, that discussion is balanced and fair. Revoking all foreign national driver's licenses as Governor Martinez has suggested would create an untraceable group of unlicensed and uninsured drivers. This is not the best option for New Mexico.”

Somos Un Pueblo Unido spearheaded a campaign in 2003 with law enforcement officials, victims rights agencies, and faith and civil right group groups, to allow qualified immigrant drivers to apply for licenses, obtain insurance, and register their vehicles. Visit SomosUnPuebloUnido.org for more information.

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