

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Secretaries Duffy and Mullin,

Thank you for your continued dedication to protecting the safety of the American people, our homeland, and our values. I write to urge your departments to take swift and decisive action to prohibit state Departments of Motor Vehicles from issuing driver's licenses to individuals who cannot provide documentation of their lawful presence in the United States, commonly referred to as "drive-only" licenses. Currently, nineteen states and the District of Columbia allow illegal immigrants to obtain "drive-only" driver's licenses.¹

On August 29, 2026, an Ohio resident tragically lost their life following a car accident in which Washington G. Naula Ochoa, an illegal immigrant who entered the United States without inspection, failed to yield at a stop sign. Two other individuals, who were passengers in the vehicle with the Ohio resident, were also injured.² Despite being illegally present in the United States, Washington G. Naula Ochoa obtained a "drive-only" license from the state of Connecticut.

Having served at both the state and federal level, I know firsthand that a proactive approach to motorist safety is essential, and Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles ensures illegal immigrants cannot receive an Ohio driver's license. In the state of Ohio, individuals must provide documentary proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the United States to receive any state identification card, including driver's licenses.³ Additionally, Ohio law requires the word "noncitizen" to be printed on state identification cards and driver's licenses issued to noncitizens lawfully present in the United States.⁴

The federal government has already acted by instituting emergency regulations that substantially restrict non-domiciled commercial driver's license eligibility, recognizing the urgent need to ensure that those operating vehicles on our roads possess the necessary competence, awareness, and qualifications.⁵ Federal regulations can build on this work and prohibit states from issuing driver's licenses of any kind to illegal immigrants, and incentivize states to follow Ohio's lead in designating noncitizen status on driver's licenses granted to lawfully present noncitizens.

The "drive-only" initiatives for illegal immigrants championed by state governments across the country are not merely lapses in judgment; they are extensions of failed immigration policies that place Americans at risk.

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/immigration/states-offering-drivers-licenses-to-immigrants>

² <https://www.13abc.com/2026/08/30/fayette-man-killed-fulton-county-intersection-crash-driver-charged/>

³ <https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/dl-non-permanent-resident.aspx>

⁴ <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4507.13>

⁵ <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/trumps-transportation-secretary-sean-p-duffy-moves-codify-english-proficiency>

Thank you again for your commitment to protecting the American people. I urge you to act swiftly to ensure that no other family is devastated by the consequences of these failed policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jon Husted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Husted
United States Senator