

Migrant Justice

WE SUPPORT



S-238 creates a new set of criteria for community members without access to social security numbers to access already existing VT issued ID and licenses.

"Now I feel like a prisoner. With a license I wouldn't because I could come and go as I need."

"It would be great to be able to identify ourselves whether it be to cash checks or go to the store to buy our own food without waiting for my employer to do so."

- Farmworkers on the importance of S-238

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- Phyllis Bowdish, Weybridge dairy farmer

Why S-238?

Encourages Public Safety for all

Police can identify and verify ID and license holders when needed, and new ID holders can feel **comfortable contacting police**, especially as crime victims or witnesses. There has been great progress in VT on establishing Bias-Free-Policing Policies, and S-238 complements that work by encouraging all community members to feel safe accessing police.

Some migrant workers are already driving, as part of their jobs or out of the fundamental need for transportation in our rural state. **Let's create a path for workers to take a test**, understand the rules of the road, and **buy insurance** so that the **roads are safer** for everyone.

Removing the SSN requirement for receiving a State ID and driver's licenses **will also benefit asylum seekers**, who cannot access these documents while their visa application is in process.

Provides direct support and relief for Vermont's farmers

Farmers are already mechanics, vets, tractor drivers, and business managers - asking them to be a taxi service for farm workers is just not fair for farmers or workers. Even the most well-intentioned farmers can't meet all the needs of workers to get off the farm.

Farmers also say **that access to licenses would increase the responsibilities workers can take on**, making jobs more productive and satisfying for everyone.

S-238 Is about Human Rights

Most farmers do their best to be good employers. But there are severe **cases of abuse** on *some* farms, where workers end up stuck without any power to leave. There are also cases of migrant workers who need to get out of abusive relationships but can't move freely. S-238 helps those in abusive situations have the power to move independently.

Imagine living in rural Vermont without a car, and paying up to \$100 for rides to buy groceries--this is the current reality for many people living and working in Vermont.

S-238 is also a good complement to the new VT Human Trafficking law, as driver's licenses will reduce the black market of human trafficking.

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S-238 does not put Vermont at odds with the feds.

The **REAL ID** Act is a program which, if accepted by every state, would turn driver's licenses into a national identity card. **S-238 does not contradict the REAL ID Act because if the act ever goes into effect, which is highly unlikely, S-238 would need to be revisited. Furthermore, REAL ID lacks both financial and political support, and timeline for implementation have been postponed year after year.**

Vermont **will not lose federal funding** for passing S-238. Washington State and New Mexico provide drivers' licenses to residents without access to SSN, and they have not lost highway funding or REAL ID compliancy funding.

**PLEASE HELP MAKE S-238 PROVIDE STATE IDs
AND DRIVER'S LICENSES TO ALL VERMONTERS!**

For more information or sources, contact:

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