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STATE REPRESENTATIVE 8TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

> Committees: Vice Chair, Public Service Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Municipalities and Regional Government Post Audit and Oversight

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June 21, 2021

The Honorable William Straus The Joint Committee on Transportation, House Chair 24 Beacon St., Room 134 Boston, MA, 02133 The Honorable Joseph Boncore The Joint Committee on Transportation, Senate Chair 24 Beacon St., Room 112 Boston, MA, 02133

RE: H.3456 An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency

Dear Chairman Straus, Chairman Boncore and esteemed Members of the Committee:

I write today to express my support of **H.3456** *An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency.* This important piece of legislation is a priority of both myself and of the House Progressive Caucus for the 192nd Session. I respectfully request that the committee advance H.3456 with a favorable report.

This bill would allow for all qualified Massachusetts residents to apply for and receive either a standard Massachusetts driver's license or identification card. To apply, residents must provide proper documentation and prove Massachusetts residency.

Immigrants without status are an integral part of each of our districts and our greater Commonwealth. As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that all people, regardless of their immigration status, are able to access services, resources, and care, safely and without fear due to their lack of documents issued by the Massachusetts government. Without driver's licenses, our immigrants without status either lacked access to these essential services or placed their health and their families health at-risk through carpooling.

Following the favorable report of this legislation last session, the lead sponsors and the coalition supporting this bill have worked tirelessly to garner even more support for the bill. This session the bill has bi-partisan support and 82 House Co-Sponsors.

Driving is essential. We have the power to remove unnecessary barriers and improve access to necessities and services. This bill is necessary to support my constituents and has the broad-based support necessary to be adopted by the House of Representatives. I respectfully urge the Committee to favorably report H.3456 out of committee to ensure in order that the merits of the proposal may be considered by the entire House of Representatives in a timely manner.

Thank you to the committee for your thoughtful and thorough review of the legislation before you. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at <u>Jay.Livingstone@mahouse.gov</u> or via phone at (617) 910-6892 with any questions.

Sincerely,

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Jay Livingstone State Representative 8th Suffolk District