



Driver's License Bill Redux

Senator Gilbert Cedillo to reintroduce driver's license bill reform legislation

Los Angeles, CA ([PRWEB](#)) December 3, 2004 -- The next session of the California Legislature is slated to begin in early January and state Senator Gilbert A. Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, will again be working on driver's license reform legislation. The state Senate reconvenes this Monday, December 6th, to swear-in new members and make committee assignments—including Senator Cedillo's appointment to the Senate Rules Committee—and Senator Cedillo will introduce the 2005 Immigrant Responsibility and Security Act.

“The next session is going to be exciting and I hope to finally engage the governor on the issue of driver's license bill reform legislation,” said Senator Cedillo. “I remain ready, willing, and able to negotiate with him and exchange proposals in writing.”

Just over a year ago Senator Cedillo and Governor Schwarzenegger sat down in the governor's personal office in Santa Monica to discuss repealing the Davis era driver's license bill. At that meeting, both agreed in principle what the replacement bill would look like—licenses for the entire undocumented community, no discriminatory mark on the licenses, and the governor's securing of a two-thirds vote to make it become law immediately upon his signature. The governor gave his word and, in addition to showing a sincere sensitivity to the immigrant community, publicly committed himself to another bill.

“I supported the governor on several issues this year and provided him with a driver's license bill proposal back in April. I have yet to receive a counterproposal and still do not understand why a discriminatory mark on driver's licenses makes them more secure or our society any safer. I hope to sit down with Governor Schwarzenegger and hear his explanation. Until that time, I am unwilling to accept a discriminatory mark and stand with the many that are against it. I share the view of Cardinal Roger Mahony who sent a letter to the governor condemning the suggestion, share the sensitivity of the Jewish community who also sent a letter to him condemning the idea, and share the values of Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Bratton who not only deemed the notion discriminatory and inappropriate on its face, but also that a mark on driver's licenses served no public safety value.

“Governor Schwarzenegger said in New York a few weeks ago that leadership is about doing the right thing. The right thing to do for our governor is to work a driver's license bill that strengthens national security and public safety while holding immigrants to the highest level of responsibility in the nation. The right thing to do for our governor is to remember that leaders keep their word and honor their commitments. The right thing for our governor to do is take action and be a leader on this issue.”

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