DRIVING **FAMILIES** FORWARD

PERSONAL STORIES FROM AFFECTED UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility (H.3012/S.2061) would enable all qualified Massachusetts drivers, regardless of immigration status, to go through the process of applying for a standard license.

"I didn't see my daughter for a month. I forgot what she looked like while in [jail]. Simply for not having a Driver's License I ended up detained for an entire month, away from my family and child."

Baido, January 6, 2020

"I was first arrested in 2013. I was coming home from work and was arrested by a Methuen police officer. I have never been arrested before in my life. I've had no reason to be arrested. I work in construction and need to drive to get to work. Since then, I've been arrested 2 more times for not having access to a driver's license."

Darvin, Early 2013

M was driving from Springfield to Windsor, CT to work in one of the farms located crossing the border between Massachusetts and CT. Because he was not able to find work in any other place, he needed to drive everyday the same route towards CT to provide for his family. One Friday, M was stopped by a CT local police offer who arrested him because M was driving without a license. The police department got in touch with ICE. M was taken into Immigration custody and send to Bristol county jail. Far away from his family or his community M was unable to find pro bono representation because he was the only one working and able to support his family. Weeks later he was deported to Guatemala –– leaving behind his wife and children.

M, November 2019

Joao was driving with his wife and 2 children in MA when he was pulled over. When asked for driver's and registration by the police officer, Joao provided a passport with an expired Massachusetts driver's license. Because his license was expired, Joao was arrested in front of his family. Joao was detained for a day. He has been living in MA for 16 years and works in landscaping –– needing a car to get to and from work.

Joao, 2019