



TO: Transportation & Telecommunications Committee  
FROM: Tom Venzor, Executive Director  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
DATE: January 26, 2026  
RE: LB886 (Remove Driver's Licenses for DACA/DREAMers) (Oppose)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. We oppose LB886 attempts to repeal driver's licenses for DACA/DREAMer migrants.

The Catholic Church has a long history of caring for the immigrant. This is because the Church is fundamentally impelled by the witness of Jesus Christ who, as we hear toward the end of the Gospel of St. Matthew, urged His believers to "welcome the stranger." At the beginning of that same Gospel, we read that Jesus Himself experienced the need to migrate and flee persecution. To use modern immigration law terms, we would say that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were like refugees and asylum seekers in their flight to Egypt as they escaped the wrath of Herod.

In addition to the life of Christ, the Church is impelled by the long-held experience, teachings, and practices of God's chosen people, the Israelites, who themselves experienced the plight of the migrant. Through this experience of being strangers in a strange land they learned about God's fidelity and love for them, as well as the moral obligation to meet the needs of the migrants they encountered.

These biblical and ethical principles have led the Catholic Church in Nebraska—and indeed throughout the world—to involve itself in the development of public policy and work toward justice for immigrants. When thinking about immigration policy, the Church is guided by and proposes for consideration three basic principles: first, people have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families; second, a country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration; third, a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

In 2015, the Nebraska Legislature passed into law—overriding the veto of then-Governor Ricketts—an important piece of legislation, LB632. This legislation ensured that certain migrants—now more commonly known as DACA recipients or DREAMers—had access to driver's licenses.

While DREAMers currently lack legal status and are undocumented, it is through no fault of their own. They were brought into the United States at a young age (even as early as infants), and have remained in our communities ever since then. While some have received [deferred action](#) from the federal government and have federal work authorization, DREAMers live in a vulnerable and difficult situation, not to mention a legally precarious one because Congress has failed to take critical action on immigration reform to offer DREAMers a pathway to citizenship.

Since 2015, LB632 has become an important law for the state of Nebraska. It demonstrates our care and concern for long-standing members of our communities, some who have lived with us for several decades at this point and are in their early 40s. They are not just community members, but also community leaders. The access to driver's licenses policy passed by LB632 recognizes that DREAMers have been placed in a fundamentally unjust situation by the federal government, and that the state of Nebraska needs permissible state level action to help DREAMers live a more normalized life and be treated with equality under the law as they deserve.

We oppose LB632 because it would strip an important public policy from our state laws and take away from DREAMers, who have lived and studied alongside other Nebraskans, access to driver's licenses. The privilege to operate a motor vehicle in our state is fundamental to well-being and livelihood. It ensures our ability to get to the most basic of places: the grocery store, doctor's office, school, work, the homes of family and friends, and church. Revoking driver's licenses for DREAMers places them in a fundamentally unjust situation, and punishes them for a circumstance they had no control over. LB886 would inhibit DREAMers from achieving, as their name indicates, their dreams. Without an ability to get from "here to there" DREAMers will be unable to reach their full potential of talents, strengths, and contributions to our state and local communities, whether they are working in our much-needed blue collar industry or are in professionally licensed and credential fields or are at home raising families.

It is unquestionable in our estimation that, at some point (hopefully sooner than later), Congress will regularize the legal status of DREAMers, given their unique circumstances and entry into the United States. Until that action occurs, it would be otherwise imprudent and unjust to create barriers to opportunity and stability for DREAMers, as LB886 would do.

We urge the Transportation & Telecommunications Committee to indefinitely postpone LB886. Thank you for your time and consideration.