



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

A Statement from Senator Pam Helming On the Passage of the Greenlight Bill

SENATOR PAM HELMING June 18, 2019

| ISSUE: **GREENLIGHT NEW YORK**

REWARDING LAWBREAKERS



“The passage of so-called ‘Greenlight’ legislation giving illegal immigrants the right to obtain a New York State driver’s license will not make our roads safer, our communities stronger, or provide any benefits to those who choose to follow the law and come to this country legally. This is about much more than driving. It is an immunity license for those living here illegally. If a person living here illegally can get all of the benefits of being a citizen, why follow the law and go through the legal process toward naturalization? This bill opens the door to allowing non-citizens to vote, adds more unfunded mandates to counties, and forces local county clerks to try and verify foreign documents they do not have the training or staff expertise to interpret. The law enforcement community has also raised significant concerns regarding the restriction of their access to DMV applications by non-citizens. Two-thirds of states do not

allow illegal immigrants to obtain a driver's license, and the dozen that do have tight restrictions. New York's proposal is far more sweeping and far more radical than any other state in the nation.

"We should be listening to our county clerks, sheriffs, and district attorneys. America is a nation of immigrants, and we embrace this history. However, we are also a nation of laws, and this is a matter of both fairness and public safety. This bill is yet another New York City-driven progressive overreach that defies common sense. Siena College has done several polls on this issue, and voters have been clear that they do not support this proposal. Additionally, I conducted my annual legislative survey earlier this year, and more than 80 percent of those who responded opposed the plan. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. In fact, 19 Assembly Democrats voted against the bill because they too understand that we should not be rewarding those who choose to break the immigration laws of our county. The passage of this measure in the Senate today is just one more example of politics trampling common sense."

RELATED LEGISLATION

2019-S1747B

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to the "driver's license access and privacy act"; repealer

January 16, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Luis R. Sepúlveda**

Do you support this bill?