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Wisconsin Troopers' Association

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To: Members, Wisconsin State Assembly
Fr: Casey Perry, Executive Director
Wisconsin Troopers' Association
Da: June 5, 2009

SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED DRIVER CARD

The Wisconsin Troopers' Association supports the creation of a driver card to be issued as a limited purpose driver's license to applicants who are unable to meet current requirements relating to residency.

Under current law, a Wisconsin Driver's License cannot be issued unless the applicant provides a birth certificate, a picture ID, and social security number or a statement that the person is not eligible for a social security number. The department is also not authorized to accept any foreign documentation other than a passport under 343.165(3)(b).

The lack of a driver card creates situations in which unlicensed motorists are operating vehicles illegally. A driver's card would show that the applicant has demonstrated knowledge of motor vehicle laws and the ability to operate a motor vehicle. Currently, if a person doesn't have a driver's license, identification of a driver is often given verbally or the officer must rely on documents of questionable authenticity when identifying a person. A driver's card would give law enforcement officials a common name and file to use when contacting the individual.

A Wisconsin issued driver's card would help ensure uniformity at a lower standard than necessary to meet the REAL ID requirements for a Wisconsin Driver's License.

Thank you for your consideration.