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DATE

Faith Communities Use Pink Tape to Protest Discriminatory Licenses for Immigrants

Chapel Hill – This weekend [LOCAL CONGREGATION] is inviting its members to place a pink piece of tape on their driver’s licenses in protest of the new proposal by the NC Department of Motor Vehicles that would issue “pink licenses” to immigrant recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The new controversial pink design, which includes the words “NO LAWFUL STATUS” has been widely criticized because it will stigmatize a generation of young immigrants who were brought here by their parents.

By joining in solidarity with those who may be issued pink licenses, these local congregations are taking a strong stand against this kind of unnecessary state action that discriminates against a group of people. QUOTE FROM PASTOR.

According to a national story in the *LA Times*: “North Carolina is the only state to mark licenses with the bearer's legal status, said Alvaro Huerta, staff attorney with the National Immigration Law Center. Thirty-three states, including California, have issued licenses to deferred-action recipients or have declared them eligible for licenses, according to the center.”

The *Charlotte Observer* recently said in an editorial: “The verdict: There’s no apparent, specific law enforcement benefit to the new licenses. They appear instead to be a vindictive slap at immigrants who are allowed to be here, a middle school response to satisfy [those] who didn’t want the licenses issued at all.”

This label provides an avenue for others, in the myriad contexts where one must show his or her driver’s license, to treat this driver’s license disparately due to the lack of understanding about the meaning and implication of being legally present, yet having “NO LEGAL STATUS.”

Placing a marker in the licenses of non-citizens, like lawful permanent residents, for example, sends the wrong message to the thousands of talented immigrants who come to North Carolina to work and study and have made our state their home.  It tells non-citizens that they will be treated differently, and makes it harder for people who are contributing to our communities to assimilate and integrate.