

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor
210 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

A 29-year-old Ohioan was killed because an illegal alien ran a stop sign.¹ I write to express outrage over this preventable loss of innocent life. If it were not for policy you championed, which allows illegal aliens to receive a “drive-only” license, this young man may have reached his destination.² Instead, tragically, Austin J. Karr Grimes was found lifeless on the side of the road, in the overturned vehicle. Washington G. Naula Ochoa, the criminal illegal alien, was charged with vehicular homicide in Ohio. Despite his lack of legal status, Connecticut issued him a driver’s license.³ Horrifyingly, Connecticut not only permits illegal aliens to receive a driver’s license, but encourages it, all while Americans pay the ultimate price.⁴ Quite simply, your policies are killing my constituents.

Connecticut has issued nearly 60,700 “drive-only” licenses to illegal aliens. This represents nearly 61,000 additional opportunities for illegal aliens to harm and kill American citizens on our interstate highways. You should be ashamed of this policy and its dangerous consequences, yet your support for illegal aliens knows no bounds. Just two years ago, you advocated for the removal of the “drive-only” marking on these licenses to help make illegal aliens’ licenses nearly indistinguishable from those of United States citizens.⁵ Republicans in Connecticut rightfully raised significant concerns that this proposal could result in illegal aliens casting a ballot. You dismissed their concerns. One can only imagine why.

Thankfully, President Trump took historic action last year to close the border to illegal alien crossings. Unfortunately, states like Connecticut continue to undermine the safety and security of Americans, including those who live in your state and mine. Between funding and supporting issuing “drive-only” licenses and other insane state laws, such as the Trust Act, every single

¹ Veronica Florek, *Fayette man killed in Fulton County intersection crash; driver charged*, ABC 13 ACTION NEWS WTVG (Aug. 30, 2026), <https://www.13abc.com/2026/08/30/fayette-man-killed-fulton-county-intersection-crash-driver-charged/>; see also *Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio Offenders Booked in the Previous 7 Days* (Aug. 31, 2026), <https://www.ccnoregionaljail.org/InmateSearch/GetPastSevenFile>.

² *Proposal would eliminate ‘drive only’ marking on licenses for undocumented immigrants*, NBC CONNECTICUT (Mar. 5, 2024), <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/proposal-would-eliminate-drive-only-marking-on-licenses-for-undocumented-immigrants/3234578/>.

³ *Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio Offenders Booked in the Previous 7 Days* (Aug. 31, 2026), <https://www.ccnoregionaljail.org/InmateSearch/GetPastSevenFile>.

⁴ Department of Motor Vehicles, *Get a drive-only license*, https://portal.ct.gov/dmv/licenses-permits-ids/get-drive-only-license?language=en_US (last visited Aug. 31, 2026).

⁵ *Proposal would eliminate ‘drive only’ marking on licenses for undocumented immigrants*, NBC CONNECTICUT (Mar. 5, 2024), <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/proposal-would-eliminate-drive-only-marking-on-licenses-for-undocumented-immigrants/3234578/>.

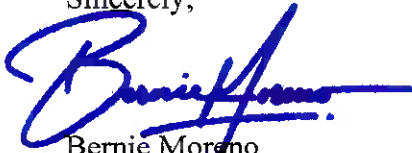
Connecticuter should ask: why is their Governor more protective of criminal illegal aliens than United States citizens?⁶

Ohio is one of many states that requires anyone applying for a driver's license to confirm their legal status in our country.⁷ I strongly suggest that you consider joining the vast majority of states that have adopted this common-sense requirement before another American citizen becomes the victim of vehicular manslaughter or is gravely injured by an illegal alien.

I am deeply saddened by this appalling loss of a young, innocent Ohioan at the hands of a criminal illegal alien and am praying for the recovery of those injured, including a small child. Therefore, I demand that you apologize to this young man's family and answer the following questions within five days of receiving this letter:

- (1) How many illegal aliens has Connecticut issued "drive-only" licenses to as of receipt of this letter?
- (2) How many illegal aliens with "drive-only" licenses have committed a crime?
- (3) How many illegal aliens with "drive-only" licenses have registered to vote and/or voted?
- (4) How much does it cost taxpayers to issue "drive-only" licenses to illegal aliens?

Sincerely,



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator

⁶ Emilia Otte, *CT lawmakers pass expanded Trust Act*, CT MIRROR (May 27, 2025), <https://ctmirror.org/2025/05/27/ct-expand-trust-act-immigration/>.

⁷ O.A.C. 4501:1-1-21(C)(5); *see also*, O.A.C. 4501:1-1-21(G).