



February 1, 2022

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Dear Lawmaker:

As major employers and drivers of Alabama's economic development, we are writing to express our support for legislation ending the suspension or revocation of driver's licenses for any reason not connected to dangerous driving.

Gov. Ivey's ambitious pre-pandemic goal of bringing 500,000 skilled workers into the workforce in order to remain competitive as a destination for manufacturers and other industries is no less relevant and exciting than it was when announced in 2018. Yet projections from the Business Education Alliance of Alabama show our great state will soon face a *shortage* of nearly 200,000 skilled laborers instead.¹

Many skilled jobs in high-demand industries currently experiencing a shortage of workers either require driving as a part of their responsibilities or require employees to have a driver's license to obtain and keep employment. For example, plumbers, HVAC technicians, carpenters, contractors, and roofers all must drive to serve their customers, while car manufacturers require their workers to have licenses. And given the state's limited public transportation options and number of rural communities, a driver's license is essential for commuting to a job.

No one wants dangerous drivers on the road. But Alabama's practice of suspending and revoking drivers' licenses for reasons besides dangerous driving hurts workforce development and hobbles the economy at a time when both could not be more essential to our state's continued prosperity. As business and industry leaders, we ask you to consider legislation that will end this practice which is keeping qualified workers from getting and keeping jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Steven Nichols".

W. Steven Nichols
General Counsel

¹ Education Matters: Measuring Alabama's Progress toward 500,000 Highly Skilled Workers, Business Education Alliance (2019), p. 15. <http://beaalabama.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Education-Matters-2020-BEA-Report.pdf>