

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
LEGISLATOR TODARO, MILLS, GREENE, LORIGO**

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:34

Re: Encouraging New York State to increase cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement for the purposes of border security

WHEREAS, New York shares 445 miles of border with the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, offering seventeen land border crossings, the busiest of which are located in the Buffalo Niagara Falls region; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Department of Transportation, nearly 4 million personal vehicles and 900,000 trucks entered the United States from Canada in 2023 through Buffalo Niagara Falls region ports of entry; and

WHEREAS, the northern border, including crossings in the Buffalo Niagara Falls region, has increasingly become a conduit for the trafficking of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, as well as human trafficking, with both issues posing significant threats to public safety and the well-being of communities in New York State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, current New York State laws prevent access to Department of Motor Vehicle records by federal law enforcement agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Border Patrol, and Customs and Border Protection, except by court order or subpoena; and

WHEREAS, these laws prohibit federal immigration officials from obtaining driver information during a border crossing screening, which prevents immigration investigators from determining the potential dangers of individuals entering the United States from Canada; and

WHEREAS, the legislation known as the “Green Light Law,” enacted on June 17, 2019, was responsible for putting these policies in place as well as permitting undocumented immigrants to obtain driver’s licenses; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body passed Intro. 11-2 (2019) on June 20, 2019, by a margin of eight to two, to express Erie County’s opposition to this law; and

WHEREAS, given the large number of crossings from Canada to the United States every year, these policies have untold consequences on public safety and national security.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body urges the Governor and other New York State officials to reconsider the policies that restrict coordination between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies; and

RESOLVED, that this honorable body urges New York State officials to grant federal immigration agencies access to Department of Motor Vehicle records for the purposes of assessing the potential risk factors of drivers entering the United States from Canada through New York; and

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Representatives Nicholas Langworthy and Timothy Kennedy, the WNY Delegations to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Kathy Hochul, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.