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March 3, 2015

To: Members of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
From: Aubrey Mancuso, Policy Coordinator – Economic Stability and Health
Re: Support for LB 623

Voices for Children is in support of LB 623. Voices for Children believes that children should not be held accountable for the actions of their parents over which they lack control. Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, were brought to the United States as minors and did not have the financial, physical or emotional independence to consent to this decision. Federal action has allowed these young people to gain legal status in the United States and they should be afforded the same opportunities as other legal residents.

Many of these children were brought to the United States as very young children and the United States is the only home they have ever known. Many of them have grown up in our culture and attended our schools. Many of these young people have made Nebraska home for decades and are actively contributing to the community and the economy. Nebraska is currently the only state in the country denying licenses to this population.

Lacking a driver's license can impede one's ability to work, care for a family, and take care of basic needs. Nebraska's current policy of denying driver's licenses to this population indefinitely penalizes these young people for circumstance beyond their control. Nebraska should join every other state in the nation by recognizing the legal status granted to these young people by the federal government and afford them the opportunity to fully participate in the community and the economy by obtaining a driver's license.

We urge the committee to advance this bill. Thank you.