

Hi my name is Luis Medrano am from Culiacan Sinaloa. I immigrated to the United States on September 16, 1996; I was 3 years old. I'm currently 19 years old. I've been in the United States for 16 years. I have never gone back, the United States is the place I go call home I don't know anywhere else. I recently graduated from Palisade High School class of 2012. I was a state qualifier for wrestling at 220s at weighing in 184 pounds. I was honorable mention for wrestling. I applied and got accepted to Colorado Mesa University which I'll be attending this spring.

I am a Dream Activist and **I applied for Differed action in August of 2012. This is a program that was announced by Obama last summer for youth such as myself who were brought to this country at a young age...a program that would let us not be deported and get a work permit and drivers license in this country.** I turned in my application and was in the approval process last fall. I got my biometric scan and took my fingerprints in on August 25, 2012. What I'll like to do if approved is see if I can join the United States Marine core.

Since I was on my path to receiving deferred action, my future looked bright but suddenly everything got put on hold and in risk. On November 6th, 2012 I was driving down G road in Clifton. I was speeding I was going 58 in a 45. I was pulled over and waited for the sheriff to approach the car. I rolled down the window and tolled the sheriff what had happen and why I was speeding. He asked for my license and registration. Immediately I said I don't have a license and I handed him my passport. The sheriff took my passport back to the patrol car and analyzed it. He came back and asked for me to step out of the vehicle and come talk to him, witch I did. He asked me (questions) about my passport and where I got it. I replied and told him the truth, the Mexican Consulate. I was confused on why he kept questioning the passport if I used it for my Differed action application and it was pretty much brand new.

The sheriff didn't believe me and stated I was under arrest for suspicion of driving without a license and giving a forged passport to him and then he applied handcuffs and put me in the patrol car.

Then the sheriff was transporting me to the mesa county Jail on the way the sheriff called immigration customs enforcement that said my story sounded suspicious and requested to hold me. As I arrived to mesa county jail I spoke with immigration customs enforcement they asked me (questions) I replied. Then I was told I would speak to immigration customs enforcement in the morning and that I would be booked and stay the night in jail. I stayed in jail for 19 hours. The next day after my parents contacted CIRC and Senator Udall's office the charges were dropped, because the passport was real. **This would not happen if immigrants were permitted to have driver's licenses, then the police force would not be forced to wonder if the documents are real or not.**

This situation changed me in a lot of ways. I spent 19 hours in jail for a crime I was not guilty of. The things it changed are how I view law enforcement, government, and how I view myself and the people I'm around.

ICE put a hold on me for supposedly having a false passport but this was the same passport they had accepted for my Deferred Action Application.

The fact that I was detained has changed my views on law enforcement. I Am not a criminal I never done anything wrong. By this situation made me feel like I was a criminal for being whom I am. And that's not right you should feel like a bad person for being who you are. I don't choose to drive without a license if I could I would get one. It changed my view of the government because I thought that we as man are equal and that we all had rights in America but if you're undocumented you don't have any right. Justice was not blind in my situation as justice should be. I was guilty before I was innocent and it shouldn't be that way just because I'm undocumented doesn't mean I am guilty.

It stated that you supposed to be innocent before you're guilty. You all come from different part of life we all came or come for different part of the world. We are all different but we are all the same. So we should all be treated them same. Cuts me I bleed red just the same as you. Just because I came form across the fence doesn't mean am a bad person or a criminal. Or am here to cause trouble. We came to America to make our self-better and live better. We came for the America dream. But in the end isn't that what we are all after. Not being the right to get drivers licenses makes us feel criminalized for just being average people Trying to make the best of life and that shouldn't be right. And that's why I'm speaking out.

Please vote yes.