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**HISPANIC INTEREST COALITION OF ALABAMA AFFIRMS AVAILABILITY OF  
ALABAMA DRIVING TEST IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (¡HICA!) affirms the availability of the Alabama Department of Public Safety’s written Road Skills test in 12 different language. While there have been no formal legislative measures taken to institute an English-only test, proposals to end the current policy of offering the test in 12 different languages have arisen during the current gubernatorial race. Currently, 44 states offer translated driving tests.

“Making the driver’s license test available in English-only is a bad move and inconsistent with the strong recruitment Alabama has done in the last 15 years to bring international business to our state,” says Isabel Rubio, Executive Director of ¡HICA!. The agency believes that an English-only driving test would be detrimental to Alabama’s economy, driving away potential foreign investors. An English-only driving test proposal is currently moving through the Tennessee state legislature. Business leaders, including the Chambers of Commerce of Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Memphis have vocally opposed this measure, stating that the bill sends a “powerful, negative message that our state—and our cities, as engines of the state’s economy—are unwelcome to foreign investment.” ¡HICA! is confident that Alabama residents

and its business leaders would feel similarly that an English-only driving test would deter foreign investment and create an unattractive image of Alabama as an unwelcoming state.

Secondly, ¡HICA! believes that an English-only driving test would be a threat to public safety. Many individuals would be deterred from taking a test in a language they are not proficient in, but because transportation is a basic necessity in our society, individuals will continue to operate motor vehicles, whether they are able to pass a test in English or not. It is in the interest of everyone on Alabama's roads and highways for the Department of Public Safety to license as many safe drivers as possible, regardless of their primary language.

The *Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama* (¡HICA!) is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the social, civic and economic integration of Hispanic families in Alabama. For more information, visit [www.hispanicinterest.org](http://www.hispanicinterest.org).

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