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Mike Kehoe
GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

November 13, 2026

Governor JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Governor Pritzker:

I am writing to you today in the wake of a devastating and entirely preventable tragedy that took place on our highways earlier this week. On Monday, November 9, a semi-truck driver plowed at full speed into stopped traffic along U.S. Highway 71 in Kansas City, taking the lives of a 35-year-old mother and her two young sons while leaving several others critically injured.

According to federal authorities, the driver, Eldar Skander, is an illegal alien facing three counts of involuntary manslaughter. Most troubling of all, he was operating an 80,000-pound semi-truck under a non-domiciled Commercial Driver's License issued by the State of Illinois in March 2025.

Because Missouri and Illinois share a border and thousands of miles of interconnected freight corridors, the licensing standards enforced by your state directly impact the safety of families traveling in St. Louis, Kansas City, and every community in between. When a state fails to vet applicants before handing over the keys to a commercial tractor-trailer, the consequences do not stop at the state line.

Here in Missouri, I have already taken significant steps to address this issue, including directing the Director of Missouri Department of Revenue to put strict protocols in place to ensure proper verification and highway safety. I am calling on you to immediately review and overhaul Illinois's commercial licensing procedures to ensure thorough vetting that weeds out criminal illegal aliens—particularly individuals who lack lawful presence, cannot read or speak English, or fail to demonstrate a basic mastery of American traffic laws and highway safety protocols. Operating a commercial rig on American highways is a heavy responsibility, not a privilege to be handed out without strict verification of current legal status, competency, and safety compliance.

Americans deserve to know that the drivers sharing the road with their families are legally authorized to be here and fully qualified to operate heavy commercial equipment safely. As Governor of Missouri, I will not stop fighting to protect Missourians from reckless, unlawful drivers who threaten lives on our roadways, and I urge you to take immediate corrective action in Illinois to prevent another family from suffering another unimaginable loss.

Sincerely,

Mike Kehoe
Governor