
The Kingsmen Project

January 26, 2023

Chair Hornstein, Chair Dibble, and Committee members,

I am writing to express my company's support for the reintegration driver's license legislation House File 503 and Senate File 577.

I am Erick Washington, one of the founders of the Kingsmen Project, a 501c3 charitable organization that mentors men and women released from federal incarceration. As a mentor of many high risk offenders, in the Minnesota Federal Reentry court I work closely with participants of the Reentry court and others, we find that most participants need driver's license assistance of some sort due to lengthy sentences that they served; their licenses expired; on top of that, they left with costly fines and fees and a lack of resources to pay them. While working with clients, we see these common occurrences emerge. Newly released individuals drive sometimes are driving without a license and are racking up additional fines, fees, and court appearances for driving offenses just to follow their probation conditions to make court ordered appointments. The Kingsmen Project staff and I believe this bill will help justice-impacted individuals move forward to regain their driver's licenses.

Sincerely, Erick Washington