

March 20, 2024,  
Chair Kelly Moller  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Chair and Committee Members:

The work of the African American Leadership Forum ('The Forum') is rooted in shifting systems and the people that lead them towards a more just future. We partner with communities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and governments to co-create solutions focused on many social and economic concerns. For over 15 years, The Forum has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

We would like to provide additional comments to HF 1832, which limits the authority of peace officers to stop or detain motorists for vehicle equipment violations. We recognize that the DE3 amendment seeks to codify directly into statute much of the original intent of the chief author's language so that several secondary traffic offenses that do not pose a threat to motorists on Minnesota's roads will not be liable to peace officer traffic stops. Thus, it is perplexing that the DE3 amendment is only presented for informational purposes with just a couple days before a critical deadline in the Legislature and the need for taking swift action is amplified. The Forum supports reducing non-essential peace officer traffic stops as an important step in improving community relations with law enforcement, as racial disparities in these matters often disproportionately negatively affect African Americans. This issue has been consistently advocated for by community members in the last three years without substantive policy changes. **We believe that action must be taken to advance this issue this session, and we urge the committee to consider a vote on this bill and the corresponding amendment before deadline.**

In addition, several additional bills—including HF 3851 and HF 4156—also propose substantive changes, including limiting warrantless and consent searches during traffic stops, as well as expanding data collection of motorists being stopped and detained. These important proposals should also be prioritized and heard by the committee this session.

Thank you for your attentiveness to these thoughts raised regarding HF 1832.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones  
Managing Director | Policy Impact  
African American Leadership Forum

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