

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
Chair, Transportation Policy and Finance Committee
State Office Building, Room 563

The Honorable Scott Dibble
Chair, Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3107

Re: Support for Reintegration Driver's License Provisions From HF503/SF577

Chair Hornstein, Chair Dibble, and Members of the Conference Committee,

On behalf of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, in the District of Minnesota, I would like to thank you for your continued support with the Reintegration Driver's License legislation. As you may recall, I provided testimony as the current Community Intervention Administrator, at U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services. Prior to that appointment, I was the Reentry Affairs Coordinator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Combined, I have nearly fifteen years of experience, assisting individuals with many interventions as they release from prison. Each year hundreds of individuals in Minnesota struggle with the barrier of obtaining a valid license. Currently, I am assisting and advising over 125 people with drivers license issues who are invalid, have pending charges, and past violations.

In addition to my own testimony, I was joined by Eve Runyon, President and CEO, Pro Bono Institute, and Jovan Gentle, Business Owner, who was impacted by driver's license fees that were more than a decade old.

Mr. Gentle gave compelling testimony of the barrier he endured while incarcerated by not being allowed placement at the Residential Reentry Center (halfway house) because of too many outstanding fines. He was referred to a volunteer attorney from the Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project for him to be transferred to the halfway house closer to home rather than be in Elkton, Ohio. Additionally, he provided testimony of the hardships it caused on his entire family that he was unable to drive to work, run errands or take his children to school and their activities.

There are many other agencies and stakeholder who previously provided support letters and have confirmed they continue to support the legislative changes, and they also wish to extend gratitude for your support as the Reintegration Driver's License. Passing this piece of legislation will enable the service providers to better assist with other important interventions during their transition.

Salvation Army
Charles Berry, Chaplain

Freedom Works
Marlin Meszaros, Case Manager

Three Rivers Restorative Justice
Dr. Kendall Hughes, CEO

cc: Jennifer McEwen; Senator Jim Carlson; Senator Kelly Morrison, Senator John Jasinski; Representative Dave Pinto, Representative Erin Koegel, Representative Jeff Brand, Representative Brad Tabke, Representative John Petersburg; Enid Swaggert, Kevin Petrie; Beth Ethier; Alex Will; Jack Fisher; Zehra Khan

American INDIAN OIC
Joe Hobot, President/CEO

KYROS
Daniel Larson, CEO

Volunteers of America
Cheryl Turitto, Case Manager

Thank you Chair Hornstein and Chair Dibble for recognizing the importance of removing the barrier of obtaining a valid license because of an inability to immediately pay fees or fines after incarceration.

Respectfully,

Jamie Rigling, LICSW/LADC

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Community Intervention Administrator, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services,

District of Minnesota

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