



March 5, 2021

Chair Mariani and Members of the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota DWI Task Force proudly supports H.F. 502. This bill improves public safety by eliminating barriers and increasing incentives to enroll in ignition interlock and obtain valid driver's licenses.

Statistics show that ignition interlock keeps our roads safer. Participants have committed 94% fewer DWI offenses and 30% fewer moving violations while in the program. Graduates are 39% less likely to reoffend. The more offenders on ignition interlock, the safer our roads are. Yet, unfortunately, many individuals choose not to participate in ignition interlock because of unnecessary restrictions and a lack of incentives to enroll.

H.F. 502 provides common sense approaches to promote ignition interlock participation. Probation officers have provided anecdotal evidence from their clients that removing these barriers and increasing incentives will accomplish the goal of greater participation in the program and result in more valid, insured drivers. All four elements of this bill: eliminating the DWI written test, limiting the insurance certificate requirement, providing for conditional reinstatement, and eliminating special registration ("whiskey") plates for ignition interlock applicants will all help improve public safety.

The DWI Task Force thanks Representatives Moller and Baker, as well as Reps. Lippert and Koznick, for authoring this very important bill and respectfully asks for your support.

Sincerely,

David Bernstein

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