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May 5, 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 Bldg, Room 3107

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

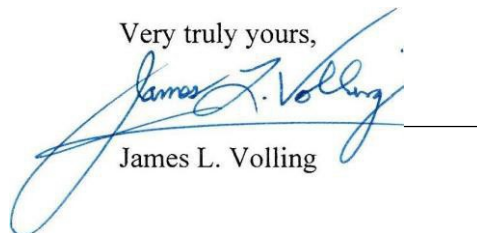
I am writing to thank you for supporting the reintegration driver's license for justice involved individuals. I write on behalf of myself and the Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project on Prisoner Reentry, which is a collective impact project that includes representatives from state and federal agencies, nonprofits, law firms, corporations, and the Pro Bono Institute in Washington, D. C.

I am a member of the Steering Committee of the Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project on Prisoner Reentry ("MNCJP"), which was formed more than six years ago to address the need to reduce recidivism by eliminating barriers to successful reentry to society from prison. The MNCJP has several working groups, including Reentry Planning (which creates and presents reentry courses in prisons), Access to Services (such as housing, employment, transportation, health care, identification, licenses, etc.), and Policy and Advocacy. I chair the Access to Services Working Group and its Civil Legal Needs Initiative (which connects volunteer lawyers to reentering persons with civil legal needs regarding child custody and support and other family law matters, debt, proper identification, tax matters, past due fines, etc.). We work to address issues that can serve as substantial barriers to successful reentry. Our Policy and Advocacy Working Group creates and supports legislative and regulatory initiatives that help with reentry.

For persons returning from prison, it is imperative that they obtain gainful employment and adequate housing so that they can reestablish themselves in the community. It is essential that they have a valid driver's license to enable them to find and maintain a job and housing. Without appropriate employment and housing, reentering persons may return to making money through unlawful means and thereby reoffend and return to incarceration. Making these legislative adjustments will be lead to positive changes for many.

Thank you for your continued support and for your service to the State of Minnesota.

Very truly yours,



James L. Volling

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