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Sen. Scott Newman, Chair
Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate

Rep. Frank Hornstein, Chair
Transportation Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

Dear Chair Newman and Chair Hornstein,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota submits this written comment to the Conference Committee on HF1684, the Transportation Omnibus bill, to urge the Committee to support the provisions that would end driver's license suspensions for unpaid low-level traffic tickets.

Suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay a traffic ticket imposes disproportionate harm on Minnesotans with the fewest resources. A person who is not able to quickly and readily pay a traffic ticket in full faces not only a driver's license suspension, but escalating consequences such as additional tickets and financial burden for driving without a license, job loss, and even time in jail. In short, the system imposes additional financial hardship on low-income Minnesotans as a punishment for being poor.

This system of accountability is inequitable and disproportionately harms low-income and BIPOC Minnesotans. Ending driver's license suspensions for unpaid low-level traffic tickets takes a major step toward reducing this inequity and we urge the Committee to support this provision.

Sincerely,

Julia Decker
Policy Director
ACLU-MN