



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

Feb. 10, 2021

Re: Support of House File 502

Dear DWI Task Force members:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs and another nearly 175 law enforcement leaders in our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) supports House File 502, which removes unnecessary barriers to enrolling in the ignition interlock program, increases incentives to join the program and ensures safety on Minnesota's roads.

We support the bill for a number of reasons.

First, House File 502 eliminates the DWI test, which is generic, not based on best practices, and is superseded by individualized education and treatment that is tailored towards each offender's needs.

Second, the bill limits the SR-22 Insurance Certificate Requirement. The insurance certificate that comes from the company's main office is only required for DWI offenders if they have had a previous conviction for no insurance.

Third, H.F. 502 replaces a Limited License with Conditional Reinstatement for ignition interlock participants, which would eliminate unnecessary, sometimes debilitating restrictions for someone who is ensured to be driving safely through the use of ignition interlock.

Finally, it is time to eliminate the special registration plates for those who enroll in ignition interlock. There is no evidence that special registration plates (Whiskey Plates) protect public safety; we know ignition interlock does. Statistics show that participants have committed 94% fewer DWI offenses and 30% fewer moving violations while in the program. Graduates are 39% less likely to reoffend.

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association thanks every member of the DWI Task Force for their work on this important bill that we believe will increase the use of ignition interlock and decrease DWI offenses in our state.

Jeff Potts

Jeff Potts/Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association