



May 3, 2021

Dear Chair Hornstein, Chair Newman, and Members of the Transportation Conference Committee,

On behalf of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota I am writing to encourage you to include the Driver's License Suspension Reform bill in the Transportation Conference Committee Report. This provision is from a bipartisan bill (SF432/HF336) and is included in the House Transportation Omnibus Budget bill.

Driver's License Suspension Reform prohibits the suspension of a driver's license for unpaid traffic tickets and makes licenses currently suspended only for unpaid tickets eligible for reinstatement.

As a workforce development organization, Goodwill-Easter Seals is always looking for ways to reduce barriers to employment. A driver's license is often key to securing and keeping a good job. In certain sectors, such as automotive and construction, it is a critical piece to successful employment. Driver's license suspensions for non-moving violations harm employment stability and options while reducing an individual's ability to pay existing fines.

This reform does not change driver's license suspensions for dangerous driving violations and does not eliminate personal responsibility. Unpaid traffic tickets are sent to collections, so people are still held accountable for the cost of their ticket. Eliminating driver's license suspensions for unpaid tickets allows people to continue driving legally for work and to take care of their families while they pay off their traffic debt.

This bill has bipartisan support in the House and the Senate and is endorsed by the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota County Attorneys Association, and the State Public Defender.

We appreciate your hard work on behalf of Minnesotans and for your service on the Transportation Finance and Policy Conference Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wirth-Davis".

Michael Wirth-Davis, D.P.A.  
President and CEO