



April 30, 2021

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Scott Newman, Chair  
Transportation Finance and Policy  
Minnesota Senate  
3105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Frank Hornstein, Chair  
Transportation Finance and Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
545 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Newman and Hornstein:

On behalf of the Justice Action Network, the nation's largest bipartisan criminal justice reform organization, I am writing in support of the Driver's License Suspension Reform bill included in the House Transportation Omnibus bill. The bipartisan legislation, HF 336/SF 432, was introduced by Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn and Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen. Earlier this session, SF 432 was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with unanimous support.

This bill prohibits the suspension of a driver's license for unpaid traffic tickets and makes licenses currently suspended only for unpaid tickets eligible for reinstatement. The legislation also prohibits the "double stacking" of reinstatement fees by DPS. In the past two years, DPS initiated the process of "double stacking" fees which has led to significant hardships for families.

The legislation does not change driver's license suspensions for dangerous offenses. Further, this policy also leaves in place the collection process for unpaid tickets but allows for people with no infractions other than unpaid traffic tickets to continue to legally drive while they are paying off these debts to the government. Minnesota has several other tools to collect unpaid traffic tickets between cities, counties, and state government. Several states have passed similar legislation including Maine, Mississippi, California, Virginia, Tennessee, and Michigan. We have included background information on the statewide impact of the legislation. We appreciate your efforts to address inequities in our criminal justice system.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact our organization's representatives, Chas Anderson at 612-308-2132 or Ade Salami at 612-804-6099.

Sincerely,

Jenna Bottler  
Deputy Director, the Justice Action Network

C: Senator John Jasinski  
Senator Jeff Howe  
Senator David Osmek  
Senator Jim Carlson  
Representative Erin Koegel  
Representative Luke Frederick  
Representative Steve Elkins  
Representative John Petersburg