



January 30, 2023

Via E-Mail Delivery

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

Representative John Petersburg, Lead
Transportation Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
217 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein and Lead Petersburg:

On behalf of the Justice Action Network, the largest bipartisan criminal justice organization in the nation, I am writing to extend support for legislation introduced in the House and Senate that addresses the issue of driver's license suspensions for unpaid parking tickets. The legislation, HF 490/SF 777, was introduced by Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn and Sen. Fong Hawj.

The Justice Action Network strongly supported Minnesota's 2021 Driver's License Suspension Reform legislation that prohibited the suspension of driver's licenses for unpaid parking tickets, stopped "double stacking" of reinstatement fees by the Department of Public Safety and reinstated driver's licenses under current suspension for unpaid parking tickets. When Gov. Tim Walz signed this legislation into law, Minnesota joined 22 other states that have enacted such common sense reforms.

The legislation under consideration by the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee merely completes the final provision excluded from 2021's Driver's License Suspension Reform—allowing previously suspended licenses to be reinstated by DPS. HF490/SF777 does not change driver's license suspensions for dangerous driving offenses. Rather, the legislation leaves in place the collection process for unpaid tickets but allows for people to continue to legally drive while they are paying off these debts to the government. Minnesota has several other avenues to collect unpaid traffic tickets between city, county, and state governments.

This bill completes Minnesota's promise to not use driver's license suspensions—too frequently an unnecessary entrance to the criminal justice system for the 86 percent of working adults that drive to their jobs—as an ineffective debt collections tool. And this is not untested policy: states such as Arizona and New York have already allowed for retroactive application of their driver's license suspension reform bills in years past.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact our organization's government relations representatives, Chas Anderson at chas@parkstreetpublic.com or Angela Garin at angela@parkstreetpublic.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Krisai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Krisai".

Lauren Krisai

Deputy Director, the Justice Action Network

C: House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee Members
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn
Sen. FOUNG HAWJ