



June 21, 2021

Members of the Minnesota House Transportation Committee

On behalf of Minnesota's Private Deputy Registrars and the Deputy Registrars Business Owners Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding First Special Session House File 10. We are pleased to support the following provisions in the bill:

- **Creation and establishment of motor vehicle self-service registration kiosks.**
It is our members belief this new service will offer additional opportunities to increase revenues and improve the experiences of our customers.
- **The independent review of the MN Drive program**
Our membership hopes this independent review will confirm the MN Drive System has shifted the work burden to our front desks and Deputy Registrar offices across the state. We hope this review will provide the Legislature with the information you need to adequately compensate our members for the work we are providing.

While there are provisions we are happy to support, we must also express our extreme disappointment in what is not included in HF10. When the Minnesota Senate and the proposed independent review of the MN Drive Program both included proposed fee increases for Minnesota's Deputy Registrars, we were hopeful this may be the year for the Legislature to adequately fund our operations.

Minnesota's Deputy Registrars have no way to increase their profitability. The state sets our fees, charges us for supplies and equipment and provides the technology we use to operate our office's. The failure to include any fee increases in HF 10 will have tremendous impacts on Deputy Registrars across the state. Due to the lack of increased funding, more Deputy Registrars will be closing their offices, reducing their hours, or limiting the services they are able to provide. Our members are losing money on virtually every transaction they process for the state of Minnesota. Pushing this decision further down the road is not a solution for our members or our customers.

The state decided to shift nearly 40% of the workload to the offices of the Deputy Registrars. The Legislature has continued to fund the state's requests for more staff and money. Yet the entities who are increasingly picking up the workload have continued to have their requests for more revenue and staff ignored time and time again.

We hope the 2022 Legislature with the information gathered in the upcoming MN Drive review will find a way to resolve this crisis once and for all. Minnesota's Deputy Registrars are counting on you. We look forward to continuing to work with you in seeking a long-term solution.