



AMERICAN INDIAN OIC

March 30, 2022

Chair Frank Hornstein
Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein & Committee Members,

I write to you urging your support for *House File 4571: Reintegration Drivers' License Bill*.

American Indian OIC is a community-based workforce development agency serving Native American people and others who are working to enter, reenter, or advance in the workforce. Many individuals who use our services are men and women reentering the community following their prolonged incarceration. As you can imagine, these individuals face numerous challenges as they work to leave destructive behaviors in their past and make their future lives better.

Principle among these challenges is obtaining meaningful, career-track employment. Employment is the simplest and most efficient means to mitigate criminal justice contact and reduce recidivism. However, living wage employment cannot be secured until a person has reliable transportation to and from their new workplace. As a leader in workforce development for more than 40 years, American Indian OIC has witnessed first-hand how important licensed driving is to the success of individuals exiting incarceration. Unfortunately, costly license reinstatement fees are often an insurmountable barrier for ex-offenders pursuing reliable transportation.

House File 4571: Reintegration Drivers' License Bill will make finding meaningful employment following incarceration much easier by eliminating costly fees and burdensome drivers' license reinstatement processes. HF4571 gives our participants the opportunity to regain their drivers' licenses swiftly and affordably. This will result in better employment outcomes for them and better outcomes for Minnesota's criminal justice system as a whole.

Wopila tanka for your thorough consideration of HF4571. We urge your full support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Hobot, President & CEO
joeh@aioic.org, 612.341.3358, x149

