

April 14, 2015

Honorable Chair Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Greetings,

I'm writing to support House Bill 3233. My name is Chad Lenz and in 2006 I was convicted of a 3rd offense DUII at the age of 26. I had two previous Iowa DUII convictions in 1998 and 2001 when I was 18 and 21 respectively.

As stipulated by ORS 809.235, my driver's license was permanently revoked. Under the current law, any hope of reintegrating and becoming a more fully contributing member of society is eliminated. The ability to find employment, participate in family obligations, and give back to one's community is significantly reduced. The sense of hopelessness that results in this situation propels individuals with substance abuse and addiction issues deeper in to their struggle, furthering the self-destructive cycle. The current law creates a psychological disposition on the part of the offender to effectively give up.

Fortunately, I went a different direction. I was lucky enough to have a fantastic support network, an understanding and compassionate employer, a loving spouse, and the necessary self-motivation to change my life. My 2006 conviction was a turning point in my life, and was the impetus to my current 9 years of sobriety and numerous positive changes. In addition to my sobriety, I have accomplished the following since 2006:

- Successful completion of treatment at OHSU and active involvement with AA
- Happily married since 2007
- Completed an MBA at PSU in 2010 (while working full time)
- Extremely stable employment (11 years with the same company), with promotions and increased responsibilities
- Purchase of a home in 2010
- Blessed with the birth of a daughter in March of 2013

I am extremely lucky and thankful that my past behavior did not result in physical injury or death to myself or anyone else. Since my conviction, I have been fully compliant and observant of the law, and do not drive. I take the bus, ride a bike, or have other people provide rides for my transportation. Due to these constraints, I have been limited in my career progression having been passed over for promotions and other opportunities. Finally, as a new parent I have been unable to perform parental responsibilities that require driving relating to medical appointments, family events, or emergencies.

I fully support House Bill 3233, and my hope is that a change in this law will create an opportunity for individuals such as myself to change their life and exact a positive impact on their community.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony with the Committee.

Best Regards,

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