

Chair Williamson, Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jordan Rahier, and today I stand before you as someone who has faced many obstacles as a result of past driving infractions. At the age of fifteen I was arrested for Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle while riding as a passenger in a stolen vehicle. As a result of this arrest, my license was suspended before I was even able to legally drive. Two years later, I was arrested again for driving without a license. This trend of driving violations carried on for about the next seventeen years of my life. During this period of time, I struggled with addiction and was constantly in and out of jail or prison.

In 2014, I was sentenced to prison for property crimes. While in prison, my son, Jordan Jr., was born. Around this time I decided to make major changes in my life with the goal of becoming a more responsible person. Since my release from prison in 2015, my life has dramatically changed for the better. I am now working at Sponsors, a re-entry program in Eugene as the Men's Program Director and was recently certified by the state as a Qualified Mental Health Associate. I am engaged to the love of my life and am responsibly providing for all of my children that are in my custody. I have come a long way from who I used to be and I continue to grow and develop into a better person.

The current struggle surrounding my driver's license today stems from fines from my past that keep popping up. Today I currently have two cases holding my license, one through circuit court and one through municipal court. The circuit court is willing to let me make payments on the docket and will release my license right away, but the municipal case, is not so easy. I had a \$300 fine in 2014 that unbeknownst to me had been sent to collections in 2018. When I contacted the courts to pay the fine, I was told that I would have to pay the collection agency. When I contacted the collection agency to pay the fine, I was told that it had ballooned to \$687. I asked the collection agency if I paid the fine in full, if they would contact the courts notifying them that the matter has been settled so that my driver's license hold could be removed. The collection agency informed me that they wouldn't be willing to do that due to other unrelated debt owed to their agency. I tried explaining to them that the other debt was unrelated, and that getting my driver's license would help me to continue paying off the debt I owe to them as well as making it easier to earn a living by having access to legal transportation. The agency told me they would not be willing to work with me on the issue and that I would need to pay the whole amount of \$2,690 before they would contact the courts to let them know that the original fine of \$300 has been settled.

I take full responsibility for my actions and have worked hard through the last four years to pay off my debts and address the damage I have caused, yet I continue to face barriers that hinder my success.

Debt-based license suspension often creates impossible choices for people who lack financial resources. Please join me in supporting house bill 2614 so together we can reduce barriers for reentry. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jordan Rahier
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