



February 11, 2020

To: Chair Sanchez, House Judiciary Committee

**Re: In support of HB4065: Relating to driving privileges**

Chair Sanchez,

As the nation's largest bipartisan organization working to reform the state and federal criminal justice systems, we urge you to support HB4065 which would end the practice of suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay fines. This counterproductive policy criminalizes poverty and traps vulnerable residents in the criminal justice system with benefit to public safety.

Suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay as opposed to offenses that pose a real public safety threat is negatively impacting thousands of Oregon residents who depend on a car for work, childcare, education, and access to healthcare. This policy undercuts the intent to incentivize payment of fines as individuals who lose licenses often lose their jobs, reducing their ability to pay the original fine. The enforcement of this policy also diverts a significant amount of time and money by Oregon law enforcement and courts away from true public safety needs.

Over the past three years, the Justice Action Network has worked with legislators in states such as Tennessee and Mississippi to enact commonsense legislation to reform the practice of suspending licenses for failure to pay fines and eliminate collateral consequences such as jail stays for minor traffic offenses. Other states such as Maine, California, and Idaho have also enacted legislation like HB4065 in recent years.

This is not a partisan issue – ending the suspension of driver's licenses for failure to pay fines is supported by legislators and organizations on both sides of the aisle. We urge you join this national movement to stop suspending driver's licenses for unpaid fines and support HB4065.

Thank you,

Holly Harris, Executive Director  
Justice Action Network

cc: Representative Warner, Democratic Leader; Representative Drazan, Republican Leader