

February 17, 2020

To: Representative Gorsek, Representative Barker, Representative Bynum, Representative Noble, Representative Piluso, Senator Manning Jr.

Re: In support of HB4065: Relating to Driving Privileges

On behalf of our respective organizations, we thank you for your support of HB4065 and urge your colleagues to vote for this critical piece of legislation. HB4065 would eliminate the harmful and counterproductive practice of suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay traffic fines. This bill will make Oregon's criminal justice system fairer and allow more residents to keep their driver's licenses, maintain employment, and continue to support their families.

Decisions to limit a driver's license based on an individual's ability to pay a fine, rather than public safety, runs counter to the intent of our criminal justice system. Many of the over three million drivers in Oregon depend on access to their cars for work, school and childcare, and to fully participate in society. This bill would remove the onerous sanctions on residents to lose their licenses for failure to pay traffic related fines – while still allowing licenses to be suspended or revoked for individuals who pose a public safety threat.

In recent years, states across the United States have either limited the ability to suspend licenses for failure to pay fines (such as Maine, California, Idaho) or otherwise restricted the court's ability to suspend licenses or place other collateral consequences on drivers for inability to pay (such as Tennessee and Mississippi).

HB4065 enjoys strong bipartisan support within the Legislature and is endorsed by individuals and organizations on both sides of the aisle. This bill will keep the public safe while reducing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency for thousands of Oregonians. We urge you to support HB4065.



cc: Representative Drazan, Representative Helm, Representative Marsh, Representative McLain, Representative Nathanson, Representative Nosse, Representative Power, Representative Prusak, Representative Salinas, Representative Sanchez, Representative Stark, Representative Warner, Senator Dembrow, Senator Frederick, Senator Gelser, Senator Knopp, Senator Linthicum, Senator Monnes, Senator Anderson, Senator Prozanski, Senator Roblan, Senator Thatcher, Senator Wagner