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Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: February 20, 2020

HB 4097 would prohibit a police officer from enforcing the law. Isn't that their job? Repeatedly, in testimony submitted to the committee it has been argued that the law is enforced unequally. Then, it is argued that poor people cannot afford the fare so presumably should not be required to pay it. Neither of these arguments justifies stripping police officers of their job requirements. If the fare system should be tiered relative to income, then change it. If the law is enforced unequally, then police training is the answer. Should disadvantaged citizens get a pass on other crimes as well?

The attorney for the OCDLA , DeAnna Horne argued that :

"While we agree that people should pay their fare to ride public transportation, using police officers to enforce fare regulations places the needs of the public transportation authority over the needs of the vulnerable people they so often serve."

Among the needs of the transportation authority are revenue and fairness. They are also required by the taxpayers who support the system. Why would anyone pay a fare if there is no enforcement?

This is such a basic concept it is frustrating to even have to argue the point. The legislature meanwhile will pass a myriad of other laws that will impose yet more fees and taxes. Will you please let us taxpayers know which ones will be enforced?

Sincerely,

Robert Bullard DVM