



HB 4065: End Debt-Based Driver License Suspensions

Sponsors: Gorsek, Noble, Barker, Bynum, Piluso, Drazan, Helm, Keny-Guyer, Lawrence Spence, Marsh, McLain, Meek, Nathanson, Nosse, Power, Prusak, Salinas, Sanchez, Stark, Williams



Suspending driver licenses for inability to pay fines keeps people from being able to pay their debts and traps people in a cycle of poverty



In Oregon, **334,338** suspensions have been issued in the past decade—not for highway safety reasons, but because someone could not pay fines from a traffic ticket, like not using their turn signal or having a headlight out. Suspending a license deprives people of reliable, lawful transportation necessary to get to and from work, keep medical appointments or care for their family.



Suspending licenses when someone can't pay is ineffective



Data from around the country shows that ending suspensions does not impact revenue. Courts have access to the same collections methods as other institutions and can collect from tax refunds through the Department of Revenue. California ended suspensions with no impact on judicial court collection. OJD's collections data show that license suspension is not effective at inducing payment.



Debt-based suspensions are not related to public safety



Taking a driver license away for not paying a fine or fee does not make our roads safer. Oregon has a mechanism to suspend driver licenses when people have too many violations and it is applied equally to people regardless of if they have money or not. Public safety should not be tied to debt collection.



Without a license, people face impossible choices



Access to transportation is a necessary part of being able to live your life in Oregon, especially in rural areas. Many people rely on driving to handle everyday tasks—going to school or work, transporting family members, seeing the doctor, and more. Suspending a person's driving privilege means taking away their ability to meet those obligations legally—often, without a readily available alternative.



Oregon can join Montana, Idaho, California, Mississippi and other states around the country and end the harmful and ineffective practice of suspending driver licenses as a tool of debt-collection.



From the desk of Rep. Chris Gorsek

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