



Native American Youth and Family Center

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June 23, 2020

To: Joint Committee on the 1st Special Session

RE: HB 4210 – Relating to driving privileges

My name is Miranda Mishan and I serve as the Community Development Policy Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 4210.

Debt-based drivers license suspensions create impossible choices for our Oregon's most vulnerable communities. Many individuals we serve at NAYA experience or have experienced extreme poverty or homelessness, and we see the impacts that debt has created within our communities. People of color and low-income people bear the brunt of debt cycles imposed by courts and civic debt, and we know the extent to which this debt can spiral out of control and have long lasting impacts on families, communities and intergenerational wealth.

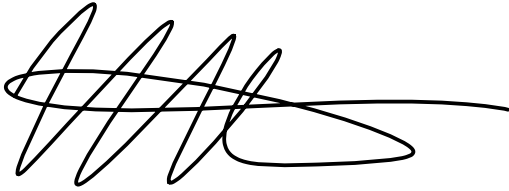
During the current crisis, the consequences of these already impossible choices become even more dire. As the communities we serve are being hit the hardest by COVID-19, individuals and families are doing what it takes to make ends meet. It is essential to ensure that people can get to work, get their children to childcare, and take care of themselves and their families. A valid drivers license is an essential piece of the puzzle when considering COVID-19 recovery for these families.

While NAYA and other agencies can work to remedy the effects of these cycles, we are confident that a change in the system is necessary if we are to achieve racial justice and equity in Oregon. As one community member shared, getting your driver's license back is a huge step in the climb out of poverty. We hope that with the passage of HB 4210, we can make this climb easier for individuals and families in across Oregon.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, we urge the passage of HB 4210.

Thank you for your time and for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Miranda Mishan
Community Development Policy Coordinator
Native American Youth and Family Center
503.288.8177 ext. 254