

Chairs Beyer and McLane, and members of the Committee

In a prior session I have spoken before your committee regarding the unfair nature of photo enforcement to members of our active duty military.

A few years ago my son was issued a photo red light traffic ticket by Seattle. On the date of the offense my son was in Army Basic Training in Wyoming. He never received notice of the ticket. Two years after being "convicted" a debt collector for Seattle called my house looking for my son. That is when we first learned of the ticket. During that two year period my son had been all over the Continental United States, Qatar and had a tour in Afghanistan.

He was "convicted" for not proving his innocence, because he never received notice in the mail.

Law enforcement agencies have access to full names and birth dates through DMV records. That is sufficient information to go to a Dept of Defense website to determine if a person is on active duty in the military. I don't know if law enforcement has access to Social Security Numbers in DMV databases, but that is another way to check a person's active duty status. I am sure their are vendors that, for a fee, will do batch checks. Since these tickets aren't about revenue raising, it should be no problem to pay for such a service.

If the individual is on active duty the ticket should not be issued. In the alternative a way should be developed to confirm the active duty person received actual notice. Furthermore, the individual should be informed in the actual notice how to challenge the ticket within 10 years, since people deployed may not be able to timely prove their innocence.

Thank you.