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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
In Support of HB2547  
February 11, 2020**

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Our associations support, in principle, changes proposed in HB2547 particularly as it relates to allowing restricted driver's license opportunities to lawfully drive during a suspension related only to failure to appear or failure to pay fines related to traffic violations. We believe the restricted while suspended status still encourages compliance with the courts while minimizing the hardships the driver's choices have placed on them.

It is our understanding the restricted license is currently only available for a one-year period. Assuming that is true, we support removing that limitation if the person is currently working with the court to address their fines. While we support eliminating the 90-day extensions on page 2 line 6 but only for suspensions solely for failure to appear or failure to pay a fine for a traffic violation. However, we strongly believe the 90-day suspension should remain in place for suspensions for major violations. For those whose license was suspended for non-compliance with the court, once they are right with the courts there shouldn't be further imposition of extended suspension periods, even if they were convicted of driving while suspended or in violation of restrictions while they were suspended.

We are not opining on the parts of HB2547 that relate to fees. We do not know what impacts that will have on those the fees are currently distributed to, especially those needed to defray costs of the programs and licensure actions.

While supporting expanded allowances for restricted driving, we are strongly opposed to bills that would totally eliminate the ability to suspend for failure to appear or to pay fines. We also oppose bills that would weaken the suspensions for convictions of serious violations such as DUI, vehicular homicide, reckless driving, attempting to elude, or habitual violators.

We also want the committee to know we are working with others in relation to a similar bill, requested by a different group, which is being worked by the Senate Transportation Committee addressing this same issue. We believe at some point the work done on HB2547 and the Senate bill should come together so the points of each group can be considered together.

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