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H.F. 1002

February 18, 2019

Rep. Pinto:

The Minnesota DWI Task Force writes to state its support of House File 1002.

The DWI written test is meant to educate an individual on the effects of alcohol. However, Minn. Stat. § 169A.70 requires all offenders convicted of a DWI to complete a chemical health assessment. The DWI Task Force supports education that is focused more on the individual than a group. Most jurisdictions require offenders to attend a DWI class, and most chemical health assessments also require completion of an educational course on the effects of alcohol. Therefore, the DWI written test requirement is redundant. It is worth noting that all offenders must still complete the necessary steps to obtain a valid driver's license.

In addition, many individuals in rural areas, where public transportation is not available or less accessible, struggle to find transportation to a testing center to take the DWI written test, especially when the individual has a revoked driver's license. As a result, many individuals drive illegally with revoked licenses (and often no insurance). Removing the DWI written test requirement will allow more individuals to obtain a valid driver's license and drive legally, which improves public safety on Minnesota's roads.

Sincerely,

David Bernstein
Chair, Minnesota DWI Task Force