



MINNESOTA CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 261 • Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone: 651.462.8320  
mca-mn@hotmail.com • www.mn-ca.org

28 March 2022

Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges House file 4571 Reintegration License

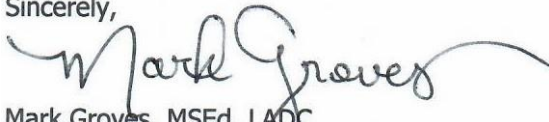
My name is Mark Groves. I am a Minnesota Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and past president of the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA). I currently work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Prior to that I was the Director of Rehabilitation and Veterans Services at the Volunteers of America - Minnesota where I managed two Residential Reentry Centers serving 120 federal inmates transitioning from prison to community for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the director of the Amicus program. Previous to that, I was the Facilities ReEntry Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). In that capacity, I developed, managed, and coordinated transition/reentry services in the Minnesota Correctional Facilities. I have worked in the corrections, community corrections, and human services professions since 1977.

The Prison Policy Initiative revealed that pre-and-post-release employment services are crucial factors in the successful reintegration of reentering citizens as the unemployment rate is the highest within the first two years of release. One of the largest barriers to full and successful integration is the challenge of obtaining a driver's license resulting from state and local policies allowing for the suspension of license due to unpaid fines and fees.

Without a license, formerly incarcerated individuals are often unable to gain and keep employment, make scheduled appointments with probation officers, attend required substance use disorder and/or mental health counseling. During such a crucial time frame, this lack of a major necessity can increase the chances of an individual recidivating or being subject to revocation.

MCA is in favor of the legislation and support of the Reintegration License Legislation House file 4571.

Sincerely,



Mark Groves, MEd, LADC  
MCA Liaison/2023 President-Elect