

MINNESOTANS

FOR SAFE DRIVING

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Minnesotans for Safe Driving supports HF 502 because its goal is to increase traffic safety through the increasing enrollment into the Ignition Interlock program. This is a proven program to make our roads safer from drunk driving and a tool to help those with their sobriety by guaranteeing sobriety while driving which will encourage and assist in their overall recovery.

The four parts of this bill eliminate unnecessary rules that do not increase traffic safety but can be a barrier to enrollment into this successful program. The Ignition Interlock program is not meant to be a penalty from the court but a way of having sober licensed and insured drivers on our roads so that they can continue to support their families and to be involved in family life. The people who are required to participate in Ignition Interlock are repeat offenders and/or high-test offenders on their first offense who have proven that they have a significant problem with alcohol.

1. A separate DWI test is unnecessary because most offender have already gone through an DWI education course.
2. The insurance certificate that comes from the company's main office is only required for any DWI offender if they have had a previous conviction for no insurance. Those who enroll in Ignition Interlock should be treated the same as other DWI offender, that is to have proof of valid insurance.
3. Limited licenses were in place to ensure that individuals could drive legally so they were able to support their families. It also limited recreational driving. The people who were convicted of drunk driving have shown that they are a dangerous driver because of alcohol abuse. Their enrollment in Ignition Interlock limits their traffic safety danger because they will be driving sober so a limited license is not needed.
4. Special registration plates, called whiskey plates, are an overkill for those on Ignition Interlock, especially since law enforcement cannot initiate a traffic stop solely on the presence of these plates. It is against the law for a person on the program to drive any other vehicle that doesn't have Ignition Interlock installed. Allowing ignition Interlock participants to avoid these plates on their car and the family's car would provide an incentive to enroll in the program.

Minnesotans for Safe Driving's mission is to assist all victims of traffic crashes and educate the public to the dangers of all unsafe driving behaviors and strive to eliminate impaired driving