

May 11, 2022

The Honorable Scott J. Newman
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee

The Honorable Mary Kiffmeyer
Chair, State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee

The Honorable Michael Nelson
Chair, State Government Finance and Elections Committee

RE: Reintegration Driver's License - Senate File 4458 (Osmeck), House File 4571 (Pinto)
Included in House File 4293, 3rd Engrossment, Article 13, Section 37

Dear Chairs Newman, Kiffmeyer, Hornstein and Nelson and Conferees,

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition submits this letter in support of including Reintegration Driver's License in your Conference Committee Report.

In our churches, synagogues and mosques, we see the challenges facing those leaving incarceration. We commonly hear about difficulty in finding housing and work. Opportunities for those without a valid license are significantly more limited, especially outside the metro area.

This bill provides these individuals a key tool to make reentry successful, giving them greater options in housing and employment. It makes it easier to meet terms of their release - meeting with a parole/probation officer and accessing treatment or similar support. It increases the likelihood that these individuals will connect with family members who can be a powerful factor in a successful reentry.

The bill requires these individuals to comply with all driving requirements, and individuals with serious driving violations (such as those cancelled as Inimical to Public Safety or those required to use ignition interlock) are not eligible. The license will be cancelled for any new violations that would otherwise result in suspension or revocation, triggering the need to pay all reinstatement fees before the individual is eligible for a full license. But those individuals whose licenses were suspended only for unpaid fines or minor traffic violations, and who are violation-free for a year, are eligible to apply for a regular license. This incentivizes safe driving and supports positive re-entry goals.

Our faith traditions call us to pursue justice. We appreciate your commitment to this same goal. We urge you to include these provisions in the final conference committee report.

Sincerely,
Anne Krisnik, Policy Manager



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