



MINNESOTA CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

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25 January 2023

Re: Reintegration Driver's License 503/Senate File 577

Chair Hornstein, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein, Chair Dibble and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Groves. I am the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) president. I am a Minnesota Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. 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 Drivers License Legislation House File 503 and Senate File 577

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Groves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "G" at the end.

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