



To the Legislative body et al.,

This letter is in support of H.B. 163 and H.B. 42. This legislation would eliminate suspensions for what the American Association of Motor Vehicles categorizes as “social non-conformist violations,” violations that have nothing to do with the safe operation of a vehicle.

Currently, a license can be suspended if an individual has been convicted of any drug offense (H.B. 163), if a Court decrees that a vehicle was used in the commission of a felony, or if child support is three or more months in arrears (H.B. 42). This practice has prevented individuals from returning to or seeking employment and has been detrimental to the reunification of already fragmented families.

In addition, I support H.R. 76 declaring that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania opposed the enactment and enforcement of a State law, under a Federal mandate, that requires the suspension or revocation, or the delay of issuance or reinstatement, of the driver’s license of an individual convicted of a violation of the Controlled Substance Act or another drug offense. Many states have opted out of this mandate and continue to receive federal highway funding without penalty.

Our organization supports this cause because the lack of a driver’s license creates significant barriers for the clients we serve. Over half of the job opportunities sent to NCC by local manufacturers in the past year are not accessible by public transportation. Therefore, skilled trainees who have attended hundreds of hours of training, earned nationally recognized credentials, and gained proficiency in machinist skills are at a disadvantage when searching for jobs for which they are eligible candidates.

Further, individuals who do not live on bus lines may be deterred from enrolling in NCC’s free training at all.

Please consider eliminating driver’s license suspensions for charges unrelated to operating a vehicle. All individuals deserve access to training that leads to family wage jobs and careers, and transportation should not be a barrier to accessing training and employment.

Sincerely,

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