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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to HB2434
February 18, 2020**

Chairman Patton and Committee Members:

Our associations are strongly opposed to HB2434 which would repeal the ability to suspend a person's driver's license for failure to pay the fine. However, we are supporting reforms in the suspension processes for failure to pay fines. We have been working with legislators to refine provisions in SB275 and in HB2547 to expand the ability of persons suspended for nonpayment of fines can have a restricted license allowing them to drive for certain needs, such as to and from work. Our proposals also assure an end to extensions of the suspension beyond when the fines have been satisfied.

It should also be noted that the Criminal Justice Reform Commission recommended a bill (HB2547) which keeps the suspensions in place while expanding the opportunity to continue to drive during restrictions. Their bill does not recommend eliminating the suspensions. It is this principle our associations are supporting.

Our opposition is centered on our belief that traffic violations address a primary public safety concern in our mobile society. Those who violate those laws must be held accountable for the violations. This method of holding violators accountable for their fines is one of only two effective methods left: 1) Suspending the driver's license or 2) sending the fines to collection agencies. If the bills pass this year expanding the ability for persons to drive within restrictions while suspended, we believe the goal of holding traffic violators accountable will be retained, while still allowing them to drive as necessary for the needs of them and their families.

In our opinion, eliminating the suspension will increase the number of cases going to collections. Also in our opinion, expanding the use of the collections process could be more harmful than a process for suspension with restrictions. With the suspension, once the person has completed their obligations to the court the license is fully restored. With collections, the credit ratings will continue for a significant time.

We urge you to not move this bill forward favorably.

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