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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee  
In Support of SB500  
March 20, 2024**

Chair Humphries and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB500, addressing issues surrounding the suspension of driver's license for failure to pay or failing to appear in court for traffic violations. Without going into detailed description of everything the bill does, we will summarize what we believe is key provisions in the bill.

Several years ago, a provision we supported an addition to the law allowing defendants who had the license suspended for fail to appear/fail to comply to apply for a restricted license while attempting to get things in order with the court if they met certain conditions. This has had some success, but for whatever reason many people do not take advantage of it. During the interim committee we learned a tremendous effort was being made attempting to get defendants to take advantage of this process. This bill would simply start the defendant in a restricted license, then provide them a time period to come into compliance. If they choose not to come into compliance the license would be suspended. This would provide a system to incentivize coming into compliance without the license being suspended.

The bill also changes the requirement from the fine must be paid in full to the defendant must be complying with orders of the court. (Page 1, line 21)

The bill also limits the actions of fail to appear/fail to pay to a smaller set of traffic violations, excluding traffic violations that do not involve the operation of a vehicle. (Page 3, lines 23-30) It also limits the sanction to violations that have occurred within the past five years. (Page 7, lines 27-36)

These things will allow the courts more latitude to work with people in the payment of their fines without being in noncompliance.

We have worked with various Senator and Representatives over the past 5-6 years on this issue. SB500 is the most comprehensive bill we have seen. The bill still allows the courts to hold violators of the law accountable, an important feature of the bill that allows us to support it. But it also decreases many of the hurdles the current sanctions contribute to.

We urge you to move this bill forward favorably.

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