

Hello Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you today to urge you to support of HB4065 - End Debt-Based Driver License Suspensions to prevent further criminalization of our community members experiencing poverty and financial insecurity. After decades of working with domestic and sexual violence survivors in local shelter and housing programs I know how important transportation is in a survivors safety, housing and economic stability plans. Making a plan with a survivor to get to the court house, dhs, and community based supportive services seems daunting when a parent has children, a car they cannot drive due to suspension for unpaid fees which compile and could be a result of the inability to pay a traffic or parking citation initially. Now the fees have increased from the initial citation more money they can't pay and then their license is suspended. Survivors experiencing post-traumatic stress due to the violence often feel immobilized and partnered with the reality of having to drive or not drive with a suspended license compounds this and can make tasks like applying for temporary assistance for domestic violence survivors seem impossible. What are we trying to accomplish with this policy, a financial gain from our communities most at risk of violence and poverty. Please extend your support of HB4065 and End Debt-Based Driver License Suspensions and cease this policy which direly impacts survivors and others working to gain safety and stability.

With Gratitude,

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Formerly the Portland Women's Crisis Line