

Dakota Soda

From: Office of Rep. Shannon <nateshannon@house.mi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:10 AM
To: Dakota Soda
Subject: Fwd: HB 5103 - Statement in Support

Support of HB 5103

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jayesh Patel
Date: 10/10/2023, 9:34:10 AM
Dear Representatives,

We, Street Democracy and our undersigned clients, write in support of HB 5103.

MCL 257.303(1)(g) prohibits the Secretary of State from issuing licenses to never licensed persons who have been determined to have committed two or more moving violations in the preceding 3 years. This law hurts people who are trying to turn their lives around after making mistakes in the past. Because the 3-year period starts on the date of conviction, not the date of the violation, people who have been out of trouble for a long time and have paid their tickets may still be unable to get a license for three years.

Removing this restriction would be equally beneficial to both the state and individuals because it removes the counterproductive effect of license suspension. The Legislature in 2021 has recognized the importance of a driver license to a person's livelihood. This is especially harmful to homeless people, who often need a driver's license to get a job and get back on their feet. When California eliminated drivers license suspension for nonpayment of traffic offenses in 2017, they saw an increase in collections. See *Report on the Statewide Collection of Delinquent Court-Ordered Debt for 2017–18*, California Judicial Council (2018); *The Fiscal Impact of Debt-Based Driver's License Suspensions*, Civil Rights Corps (2021). This shows that when people are able to keep their licenses, they are more likely to use their increased income to pay their tickets. Decreasing the number invalid license holders should also help lower insurance rates for people within the same geographic region.

Street Democracy is a legal nonprofit that represents homeless people. Despite our clients' sincere efforts to address the root causes of their situations, MCL 257.303(1)(g) prevents about 5% of our clients from leaving their pasts and their poverty in the rearview mirror. It seems needlessly cruel to tack on another 3-year suspension period at the precise moment the State should be removing the barriers on the long road back.

Sincerely,

Jayesh Patel, P65385 (he, him, his)
Street Democracy, President & Managing Attorney

Lumumba Landers

"Current law affects all residents in Michigan, but has an exceptionally negative effect on its minority population."

Keisha Robinson

"[Even though] I have gotten my license... somehow my tickets always show up and I'm denied [a job]."

Jouan Boyd

Darchelle Garvin

Keisha Robinson

Porsche Morrison

Jasmine Gray

Tyiesha Traylor

Dakota Soda

From: Rubina Mustafa <rmustafa@detroitjustice.org>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 4:54 PM
To: Rep. Sharon MacDonell (District 56)
Cc: Dakota Soda
Subject: House Bill 5103

**Hon. Sharon MacDonell, Vice Chair, Majority
Committee on Transportation, Mobility,
& Infrastructure
House of Representatives
State of Michigan, District 56
Room 521, House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909-7514**

RE: Statement in Support of House Bill 5103, introduced

Dear Honorable Vice Chair MacDonell:

I write in support of House Bill 5103, which would repeal MCL 257.303(1)(g). This subsection of the statute has prevented hundreds or maybe thousands of citizens from restoring their full driving privileges. For those who have never had a driver's education, a learner's permit, or a license in another State, the consequences of 2 moving violation convictions leads to an unfathomable 3-year ban on license reinstatement from the date of the conviction. This 3-year-ban exists even if the person has met all court requirements and financial obligations. This ban has prevented too many people, who have sought to clear their open cases with an unreasonable obstacle, for which there is no legal or procedural relief.

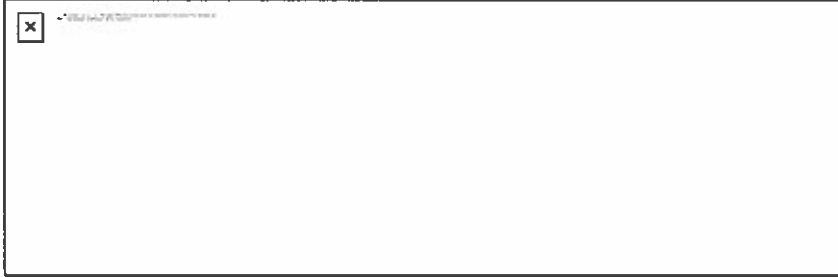
I am the Senior Staff Attorney with the Detroit Justice Center, and the lead volunteer and training attorney for the Road to Restoration Clinics, working in collaboration with the Department of State and other business and community partners. We have held over 30 clinics in the last two years, and at each clinic, I encounter citizens who face this 3-year ban. We can make their lives better and help them achieve independence and self-reliance by the repeal of MCL 257.303(1)(g).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my comments and concerns.

Rubina S. Mustafa
Senior Staff Attorney
Detroit Justice Center
4731 Grand River, Ste 200
Detroit, MI 48208
detroitjustice.org

Phone: 313-437-2202

Join our movement!



The Detroit Justice Center is located on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe peoples.

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