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The Honorable Scott Newman  
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: The Senate bill number is Senate File 4458

April 4, 2022

Dear Chair Newman and Members of the Committee,

To those in consideration of Senate File 4458, I here contribute 15 years of professional experience in working with individuals transitioning from prison to community.

My experience makes clear how important employment and legal transportation to it is vital to successful community reentry from correctional facilities:

*Individuals who are employed compared to those unemployed are more likely to demonstrate:*

- Lower rates of recurrence
- Higher rates of abstinence
- Less criminal activity
- Fewer parole violations
- Improvements in quality of life
- More successful transition from long-term residential treatment back to the community.

\*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Substance Use Disorders Recovery with a Focus on Employment and Education Issue Brief

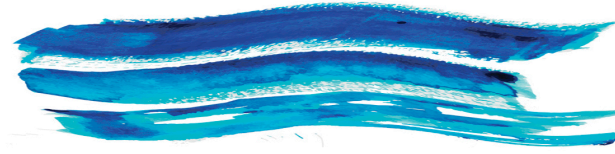
I currently manage a large Salvation Army long-term residential recovery program in Mpls. All of our current sixty program participants are justice impacted individuals. Our community reentry phase includes a sixty-day period of ongoing free room and board for men who have gained employment toward saving money for next steps. Many have been furloughed to us directly from correctional facilities. Given the favorable job market and many more opportunities with companies who provide a livable wage, public transportation is not always a feasible logistical option whereas in many cases, legal driving status would make it possible to reach employment destinations.

The Reintegration License initiative has my full support.

John G. Hulteen  
Program Manager  
612-968-6756  
[John.hulteen@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:John.hulteen@usc.salvationarmy.org)

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# *Three Rivers Restorative Justice*



*Respect · Accountability · Healing*

400 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW Rochester, MN 55902 [threeriversrj@gmail.com](mailto:threeriversrj@gmail.com) [www.TRRJ.org](http://www.TRRJ.org)  
Phone: 507-396-4095

Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges Senate File 4458 Reintegration License

April 4, 2022

Honorable Scott Newman and Committee Members,

I am Kendall Hughes, Chair of Three Rivers Restorative Justice and a retired Federal Prison Chaplain. Most of my career for the past 25 years has centered around helping men prepare and reenter society as law abiding citizens.

Many of the men returning home from the Federal Prisons where I served had been incarcerated for a decade or more. The process of reintegrating was daunting and complicated already. Adding to that the difficulties of obtaining a drivers license, delayed their ability to gain employment, help aging parents or other important tasks.

This frustration is almost universal for the men that I mentor as they return home. When they have exhausted all they can do, they may choose to drive un-licensed. In order to have successful transition from incarceration back into community, and to give men and women seeking to turn a new page in their lives, I am in favor of the legislation and support of the Reintegration License Legislation Senate file 4458.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kendall Hughes

Chair, Three Rivers Restorative Justice  
Federal Prison Chaplain, Retired  
(507)396-4095



April 4, 2022

The Honorable Scott Newman  
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Newman and Committee Members:

My name is Otis Zanders, and I am the CEO at Ujamaa Place. It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of S.F. No. 4458 as proposed.

Since 2010, Ujamaa Place has provided transformation support services to young, predominantly African American men, helping them build positive lives for themselves and move into contributing roles in society. We proudly serve as a diversion partner for the Ramsey County JAG Diversion Program and the City of St. Paul Criminal Justice Re-entry Partnership, helping men ages 18-30 exit the criminal justice system and re-enter society. Converting to a data-centric organization revolutionized our work circa 2017, providing quantifying data to track participant progress and measure impact. Employment is one of the metrics used to measure participant success and is critical to successful re-entry. From the data, we know that participants who are employed are less likely to re-offend and that being unlicensed is a significant barrier to employment.

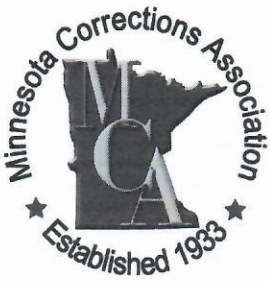
With the current laws in place, many of our participants are unable to obtain a driver's license. In order to aid participants with successful re-entry, Ujamaa Place provides rides, bus fare, and other resources to help participants get to and from interviews and jobs. Without these supports in place, participants are less likely to obtain and maintain a job, threatening the likelihood of successful re-entry. These supports are unsustainable over time, however, because of the number of participants in our program. Due to the disproportionate impact of the current laws on the population we serve, participant needs far exceeds our available resources.

According to 2021 data, Ujamaa Place has served over 5,000 men and maintains a 4% recidivism rate, compared to 44% nationally (Source: National Institute of Justice). The data confirms that participants achieve personal success when they are supported. It's simply a myth that too much support somehow makes people trying to get on their feet worse off. It seems rather cruel to me to impose an expectation of someone and then make it as difficult as possible for them to meet it – which is what the current laws do. Why wouldn't we want to reduce the barriers to employment as much as we possibly can? I believe the benefit far outweighs any public safety concerns, which I think the drafters did a wonderful job carefully and adequately addressing. Thus, I see no disadvantages to S.F. No. 4571.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, *"The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest member."* Serving as CEO since 2010, I have seen firsthand the negative impact that suspended driving privileges has on an individual trying to turn their life around. When the laws that govern citizens are so unrelenting that the weakest member is unable to overcome, we must determine that greatness demands better of us – *more mercy, more peace.*

Faithfully,

Otis Zanders



MINNESOTA CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 261 • Wyoming, MN 55092

Phone: 651.462.8320

mca-mn@hotmail.com • www.mn-ca.org

28 March 2022

Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges Senate bill number 4458  
Reintegration License

The Honorable Scott Newman  
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Newman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Groves. I am a Minnesota Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and past president of the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA). I currently work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Prior to that I was the Director of Rehabilitation and Veterans Services at the Volunteers of America – Minnesota where I managed two Residential Reentry Centers serving 120 federal inmates transitioning from prison to community for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the director of the Amicus program. Previous to that, I was the Facilities ReEntry Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). In that capacity, I developed, managed, and coordinated transition/reentry services in the Minnesota Correctional Facilities. I have worked in the corrections, community corrections, and human services professions since 1977.

The Prison Policy Initiative revealed that pre-and-post-release employment services are crucial factors in the successful reintegration of reentering citizens as the unemployment rate is the highest within the first two years of release. One of the largest barriers to full and successful integration is the challenge of obtaining a driver's

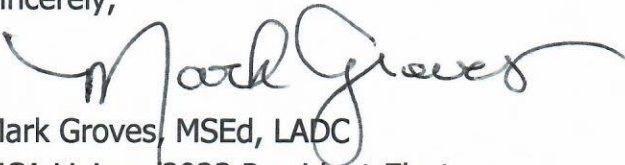


license resulting from state and local policies allowing for the suspension of license due to unpaid fines and fees.

Without a license, formerly incarcerated individuals are often unable to gain and keep employment, make scheduled appointments with probation officers, attend required substance use disorder and/or mental health counseling. During such a crucial time frame, this lack of a major necessity can increase the chances of an individual recidivating or being subject to revocation.

MCA is in favor of the legislation and support of the Reintegration License Legislation Senate file 4458

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Groves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Groves, MEd, LADC  
MCA Liaison/2023 President-Elect



Kyros Care PBC  
110 5<sup>th</sup> Street North Suite 520  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Community reentry/Driving privileges

April 4, 2022

Honorable Scott Newman,  
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

I am writing to express my company's support for the reintegration driver's license legislation Senate file 4458.

Our organization currently supports over 250 clients in the State of Minnesota that are in the process of recovery from substance use disorder, many of which are in some way justice involved.

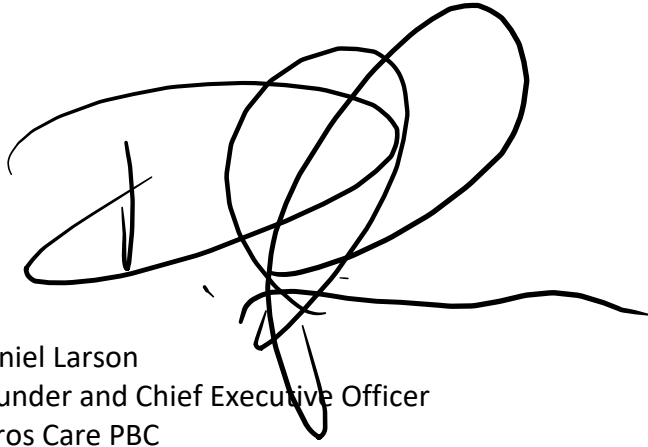
I believe that having accessibility to transportation, specifically driving privileges to give re-entry participants the ability to live up to the expectation of rehabilitation is vital in setting this population up for success.

We find that many of these people leave these institutions with stigma, shame, and unnecessary obstacles to live a law abiding and productive life. If it is important for us as a community to have expectations of them meeting the obligations of re-entry – then we also should have an equal responsibility to set them up for success with access to transport themselves to the numerous requirements of those being released in these situations.

For the recovery community that we support, driving after revocation charges from simple reinstatement issues is by far the most common charge that we see, and this can lead to people feel that they are in a situation where the deck is stacked against them, and choose to be the type of person we treat them as, not the type of person we all hope they will be.

I believe that as a community we need to give these individuals the tools to integrate back into the community successfully without unnecessary risk of recidivism, therefore I am in strong support of Legislation Senate File 4458.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Larson  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Kyros Care PBC  
[Daniel.larson@kyros.care](mailto:Daniel.larson@kyros.care)  
612.213.1519



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Brian Peddle, *General*  
Commissioner F. Bradford Bailey, *Territorial Commander*  
Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, *Divisional Commander*

Honorable Scott Newman and Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of establishing reintegration license for individuals being released from prison. Section 1. [171.301] REINTEGRATION LICENSE, SF 4458. In my 23 years as a correctional services chaplain for the Salvation Army, I have witnessed the extreme disadvantage of not having a driver's license or suitable form of ID for those being released from prisons.

A driver's license gives a person a chance to reestablish themselves back into society. It is necessary for finding housing, jobs, banking, and many other things for living a productive life. Many individuals end up recidivating due to not having proper forms of ID or driving privileges that are necessary for these basic needs. A driver's license will go a long way towards reducing barriers to a successful re-entry back into society.

I hope you will find this to be necessary legislation and pass this bill.

Charles E. Berry Sr.

Correctional Services Director  
Salvation Army – Northern Division

[Charles.berry@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Charles.berry@usc.salvationarmy.org)

(651) 746-3532





## Volunteers of America Residential Reentry Center

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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Scott Newman and Committee Members,

Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges Senate File 4458 Reintegration License

Hello, my name is Cheryl Turitto, I am the Employment Specialist /Program Coordinator at Volunteers of America Reentry Centers at both Lake Street and Roseville Facilities. I have worked in reentry for the past 12 years.

I believe that legal transportation is crucial to the success of the men and women that I work with that are coming out of incarceration. The men and women that I work with are typically at our facility for up to 8 months working on their reintegration. From the time they arrive the majority do not have a drivers license. Their license has either expired, they have never driven legally, or they have fines. Most of these men and women come out seeking a new direction and real change in their lives beginning with getting their driver's license and getting a decent job. However, they are met with significant barriers to accomplishing the real change they so desire.

I just recently had an individual in my office that completed 6 years of incarceration. Tears were streaming down his face as he explained that he was about to lose his union job due to issues with obtaining his needed documents, his license was about to expire, and he would not be able to renew it without the needed documents. He needs his license to be able to drive to and from his work sites in construction. He was able to provide some documentation this last week to try and postpone the expiration of his license. I have not heard if the paperwork helped.

This is a story that is all too common for the men and women that I work with. When they have exhausted all that they can do, they start to make poor decisions. They may choose to drive unlicensed. When family is no longer willing or able to drive them, they turn to old friends to get around. They also start to lose the hope that they had for real change.

In order to have successful transition from incarceration back into community, and to give our men and women a real chance for change, I am in favor of the legislation and support of the Reintegration License Legislation Senate file 4458.

Cheryl Turitto

Employment Specialist / Program Services Coordinator  
651-255-4461 / [cheryl.turitto@voamn.org](mailto:cheryl.turitto@voamn.org)

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# The Kings Men Group LLC



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April 4, 2022

Re: Community reentry/Driving privileges House file 4458 Reintegration License

The Honorable Scott Newman and Committee members

My name is Erick Washington, I am the founder of Kings Men Group LLC. I am a mentor for Minnesota Reentry Court. I mentor high risk offenders coming out of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I find one of the biggest challenges for these men is not having the proper credentials for driving. What I see is a vicious cycle of driving offenses due to the fact that these people do not have valid driver licenses; which keeps them from being able to get better employment opportunities.

Individuals that I mentor all served many years of incarceration and all of them had to go through many obstacles to get the information on how obtain their license.

Many of these people are still without the information needed due to several obstacles such as:

- High cost of fines
- Complexity of getting their information from other states
- Difficulty of reintegrating into society

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I know that one of the biggest reasons of violating their supervised release is a failed traffic stop. I have had the privilege of being able to take one of the Minnesota Federal Reentry Court participants to take their driving test and he passed, with so many drivers license reinstatement issues it was a beautiful thing to help one become reinstated.

I am in favor of the legislation and support of the Reintegration License Legislation Senate file 4458.

Sincerely,

Erick Washington