



February 6, 2023

Members of the Transportation Committee  
Minnesota Senate

Chair Dibble and Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am submitting this letter to voice support for Senate File 777 (driver's license reinstatement), sponsored by Senator Foug Hawj.

Americans for Prosperity believes in breaking barriers that stand in the way of people achieving their full potential and demonstrating a dignified "smart on crime" approach. The revocation of driver's licenses merely for a failure to pay court debt is a counterproductive policy that actually prevents individuals from paying off these sums.

Senate File 777 is a positive step forward in reforming our state's policies in this area and tying up a loose end from prior legislation passed by the Minnesota legislature. 86% of working adults rely on their vehicles to go to work and take care of their families. Over 60% of low-income workers whose license is suspended lose their job. This bill will allow these individuals to continue driving because they do not present a threat to public safety.

Americans for Prosperity believes that an individual should not be prevented from making a living, attending a doctor's appointment, taking their children to school – many of the necessities that are unavailable to those with a suspended license – that are critical to maintain health, well-being, and pursuit of economic stability merely because they owe the government some money. Conservative states such as Texas, Montana, Mississippi, and Idaho adopted these reforms years ago and their experience shows why Minnesota should take this next step. Senate File 777 rectifies this ineffective and unfair practice.

We thank Senator Hawj for bringing this legislation forward, and respectfully urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RaeAnna K. Buchholz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters.

RaeAnna K. Buchholz  
Legislative & Coalitions Director, Minnesota  
Americans for Prosperity