



March 21, 2025

Chair Latz, Vice Chair Oumou Verbeten, Ranking Member Limmer, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support and swift passage SF 2068 to increase the safety of Minnesota's roads. By increasing the amount of time required on the interlock for repeat offenders, recidivism is further disincentivized. The extension of the lookback period for repeat offenders also increases opportunities for accountability, as does the elimination of the lookback period for repeat offenders of criminal vehicular operation. Increasing the time period in which the license reinstatement fee and surcharge can be paid will enable further participation in the interlock program.

Ignition interlocks are currently utilized in Minnesota for repeat offenders, and those who have a high blood alcohol content (BAC) first offense. This bill would not expand the population of people on the interlock, but ensures increased accountability for those with demonstrated histories of repeat drunk driving offenses. Given last year's tragedy at Park Tavern, the dangers of repeat offenders can be clearly seen. Ignition interlocks are a proven, effective countermeasure against drunk driving:

- [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—[by up to 70%](#)— among first-time, repeat, and high-risk offenders while they are installed.
- An Insurance Institute for Highway Safety [study](#) concluded “laws mandating alcohol ignition interlocks...are an effective impaired driving countermeasure that reduces the number of impaired drivers in fatal crashes.”
- A [study](#) from the University of Pennsylvania showed that ignition interlocks reduced instances of alcohol involved fatal crashes, and stated that ignition interlocks “are a lifesaving technology that merit wider use.”

Ignition interlocks are an effective and valuable tool to provide accountability for program participants, and incentivize behavior change. Ignition interlocks allow offenders to participate fully in their daily lives, support their families, and participate in their communities while ensuring sober driving. We strongly urge you to pass this bill for safer roads and to save lives.

Sincerely,

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