

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 2219**

2 **SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

3 **JANUARY 26, 2023**

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5 Good morning Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation  
6 Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator representing  
7 District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I appear before  
8 your committee to seek support for Senate Bill 2219.

9 SB 2219 is a bill seeks to alter the process by which a licensed driver's license is  
10 suspended. As you may read under SB 2219 courts may suspend a license for  
11 incompetence, driving offenses such as driving under the influence and failure to pay  
12 fees fines and child support. SB 2219 would eliminate driver's license suspension for  
13 non payment of fees, fines and child support.

14 I am handing out some literature regarding what other states are doing and have  
15 done in the last several years regarding driver's license suspensions. As you see in the  
16 map, states across the country are limiting driver's license suspensions for non-  
17 payment of fees and fines. Why? Well, I submit that different states are doing it for  
18 different reasons. I note that some states who have studied the issue have concluded  
19 that it disproportionately affects poor people who lack the resources to get their licensed  
20 reinstated. These states have concluded that it is unjust to suspend the license based  
21 on an inability to pay.

1 Other states see the drivers' license suspension has a significant negative impact  
2 on the state's workforce. Chairman Clemens, I do share that view.

3 What the states have concluded is that the loss of a driver's license reduces  
4 wage earnings potential and actual wages. This is a common sense conclusion based  
5 on the idea that individuals without a driver's license are precluded from seeking high  
6 paying jobs which require a driver's license as a condition of employment. We're talking  
7 about more than just the obvious cdl drivers, delivery personnel, bus drivers, etc. There  
8 are many jobs where the employer insists you have a valid driver's license even if  
9 driving is not the main function of the job. Constricting employees employment  
10 opportunities inevitably leads to lower income in many cases.

11 Being a licensed motor vehicle driver in North Dakota affects one's employment  
12 opportunities in ways that we don't always think about. How can one live, let alone work  
13 in North Dakota without driving a motor vehicle? While I acknowledge it's possible you  
14 can't ascend to your highest employment capacity.

15 SB 2219 seeks to enhance the employment opportunities of those with  
16 suspended licenses by eliminating a vast pool of suspend drivers whose suspension  
17 relates to non-payment of fines, fees, and child support obligations. Mr. Chairman and  
18 committee members, I urge your support of SB 2219. I will try to answer any questions  
19 you have.

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