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Subject: FW: Comments in Support of SB5226
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From: Michael Brodsky [mailto:mpbrodsky@brodskylawfirm.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 3:18 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comments in Support of SB5226

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Members of the Court:

I am writing in support of proposed changes to the IRLJs to fill the gaps left following the passage of SB5226. In my experience as both a private defense counsel and a public defender, license suspensions based on inability to pay fines disproportionately effect the poor and working poor by leading to an endless cycle of charges as drivers with suspended licenses try to get to work to pay their fines and reinstate their driving privilege. These changes accomplish the following goals:

Allowing people to stay licensed allows them to stay insured and continue getting to work and taking care of family.

People who cannot pay a traffic ticket are no less safe than other drivers who get traffic tickets and can pay for them. Suspending their licenses does nothing for traffic safety.

BIPOC are disparately cited for traffic infractions. This is an issue of race equity.

To make the new legislation apply fairly, uniformly and in a way that serves Washington residents, courts should

have guidance about how to decide if a person cannot pay a traffic ticket and what is a realistic payment plan.

Using GR 34 to determine if a person can pay and limiting to monthly payments of \$10 provides that guidance.

Court processes can be confusing and time-consuming to figure out. Courts are well situated to give information

to drivers about how to get on a payment plan. Busy drivers should not have to search for that information.

Attendance at hearings can be difficult to impossible for people with jobs, school, or childcare responsibilities.

Limiting hearings and allowing remote appearances would help.

People may need time to gather resources before addressing a traffic ticket. The 90-day grace period would help people without immediate access to extra money.

Often people do not respond to a traffic ticket because of multiple competing time demands and because the process and potential fine are daunting. An automatic requirement that a person who does not respond to a traffic ticket has to pay the whole fine at once is unfair and punishes people with the most limited resources.

I urge adoption of the proposed changes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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